FBIS DAILY REPORT

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OFFICIAL MEETS WITH USSR OLYMPIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PY202135 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Apr (TELAM)--Capt Luis Ugarte, ret, state secretary for social action, today met three members of the USSR Olympic Committee and promised them that any decision regarding Argentina's presence at the Olympic games would be reached without taking into account any influence alien to Argentina.

The visiting delegation was composed of the vice chairman of the organizing committee of the 22d Olympic games, Vladimir Ivanovich Koval, and committee members Vitaliy Ivanovich Kobysh and (Valentin Nikolayevich Kuchin), who explained the preparations which are taking place in Moscow for the upcoming games.

LA NACION EDITORIAL CRITICIZES IHRC FINDINGS

PY211941 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 20 Apr 80 p 10

[Editorial "More of a Prosecutor Than a Judge"]

[Text] It would be absurd to maintain that in the struggle against subversion our country recently experienced there were no errors or injustices. What is more, some excesses may have been committed. But the Argentine Government and its people have faced the judgment of neighboring countries and their representatives at international forums without asking for mercy or favors. Furthermore, there was never the slightest intention of doing so, because it was not the proper thing to do. Self-criticism and not outside criticism, pride in having faced the realities of the situation unintimidated, and awareness of the demands of that tragic period that today is nothing more than a bitter memory--these are the bases of responsibility.

The Inter-American Human Rights Commission [IHRC], which was created by the OAS, has accomplished its mission. It received all sorts of information--and more mendacities than truths. It cunningly listened to those it wanted to hear, and it accepted copies of documents without verifying whether they were genuine. We do not criticize the IHRC merely because the sovereignty of a nation has been violated--although that would be justification enough. We intend to objectively review how the organization, and particularly its members, behaved. What happened was perpetrated with the objective of changing the destiny of the continent. It was the expression of a sector that was following disruptive international trends.

Argentina did not try to hinder the investigation or avoid any blame or responsibility for what took place. It did not brandish the well-founded argument that the struggle against subversion is an exclusively domestic issue. It opened its doors to the IHRC members. They came, but they did not leave behind their prejudices. These followed them on their trip and guided their procedures. No doors were left closed. They visited prisons, collected statements and talked with whom they pleased. They did whatever they wished in pursuing their duty, but they obviously rejected the assistance that would have led to a proper report. Argentina believes that the IHRC report is aggressive, unfair and that it lacks balance. The report clearly shows that the IHRC members were blind and deaf. They preferred to maintain their position of accusers and left behind their honor as judges. If the mission had carried out its activities strictly according to the norms, the commission members would have been objective and understanding. As it turned out, the legitimate defense of a nation that was being undermined by subversion was not handled in a gentlemanly manner but instead was handled with methods scornful of the dignity of persons. But if the nation's defense was vigorous and profound, it did not equal the excesses committed by the subversives.

The IHRC preferred to be more of a prosecutor than a judge, neither "meek nor well mannered." The Argentine people cannot but see in the IHRC members and those who support them a hostile, incompetent group. The reply issued by the Argentine Government clearly states this. Furthermore, the reply declares the results of the IHRC report--which in sum is nothing more than a misunderstanding--to be void. The inability to perceive the real situation is no justification or excuse, but merely reveals to the people the reasons for the critical attitude of the IHRC.

All Argentines supported the struggle against subversion. They understood what was happening. And because they did so, they support those who had to confront a hard and difficult duty.

BRIEFS

CAPITAL GOODS IMPORTS--The Central Bank has reported that the import of capital goods, FOB, during 1979 reached $1,209,630,000, including $346,960,000 from the United States, $212,560,000 from the FRG, $124,480,000 from Italy, $83,890,000 from Brazil, $71,530,000 from Japan, $71,460,000 from Spain, $59,750,000 from the UK, and $47,600,000 from France. [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Apr 80 p 4 PY]

PERONISTS RELEASED--San Luis, 21 Apr (NA)--Elias Andre, the last Peronist governor of San Luis Province, has been released after 4 years' detention, the last part of which he spent under house arrest. Diego Ibanez, former secretary general of the Union of State Petroleum Workers (SUPE), has also been released. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1145 GMT 21 Apr 80 PY]

TREASURY DEFICIT--The treasury deficit for the first 2 months of this year amounts to 578,562,000 pesos. [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Apr 80 p 9 PY]

SATELLITE TRACKING STATION--The Argentine Air Force commander officially opened this morning in Mar Chiquita a satellite tracking station. This new station will provide Argentina with more effective data to evaluate and study natural resources. The tracking station was built by the National Space Research Commission. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Apr 80 PY]

MORE METALWORKERS REPORTED ARRESTED IN SAO PAULO

FY191453 Paris AFP in Spanish 1317 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Text] Sao Paulo, 19 Apr (AFP)--After arresting the former president of the Sao Bernardo metalworkers union, Luis Inacio da Silva, alias Lula, this morning, the police proceeded to make a series of arrests among metalworkers in the industrial zone of Sao Paulo. Djalma de Souza Bom, union treasurer, and Djalma Dallari, former president of the peace and justice commission of the Sao Paulo diocese, are among those arrested. According to a deputy of the opposiion, this wave of arrests under provisions of the National Security Law is taking on unexpected dimensions.

Roundup Continues

FY211510 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Apr 80

[By reporter Jose Roberto Marques)]

[Excerpt] Seven more arrests were made yesterday in Sao Bernardo do Campo. (Espedito Batista) was arrested at his home at 0700. (Miguel Palomares), who is a member of the (Guimaraes Rosa) cultural center and who does not belong to the union, was also arrested at 0700. At 1100 information was received that (Severino Alves da Silva), former secretary general of the union, and (Joao Justino de Oliveira), who was the union's vice president in 1967, were arrested as they were leaving a meeting at the Santa (Eduvigis) Church in Sao Bernardo.

At 1130 a citizen known by the name of (Neruda), who had been helping in the collection and distribution of food, was arrested when he arrived at the church.

According to a report, two unidentified persons who were in the vicinity of the church were also arrested.

Authorities Ban Meetings

FY211511 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Apr 80

[By journalist Renato Lombardi]

[Excerpt] The authorities are continuing with their policy of not releasing any information regarding people involved in the metalworkers strike.

Last night, after 2 days without any information, an agent of the Department of Political and Social Order [DOPS] released a communique at the door of DOPS headquarters. This document states that the meetings that were to be held today in Sao Bernardo and Santo Andre have been banned.

LABOR MINISTER DENIES ORDERING ARREST OF LABOR LEADERS

FY211852 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Apr 80 p 19

[Excerpts] Labor Minister Murilo Macedo has denied that he ordered the arrest of Luis Inacio da Silva and other labor leaders. He asserted that he "learned of the arrests through information provided by reporters. If Da Silva has been arrested it is because he has violated the law."

Alleging that he did not have sufficient information regarding the arrests, Macedo refused to comment on whether the labor leaders would be punished in accordance with the National Security Law.

He asserted that the Labor Ministry has not ordered the arrest of anyone. Macedo said that "a democratic regime, more than anything else, is a regime of responsibility, the violation of the law brings consequences. As labor minister, I act within my sphere of competence. I responded to the violation with intervention and with the firing of the leaders of the Sao Bernardo and Santo Andre metalworkers unions."

It is Macedo's opinion that "the intervention and the arrests do not compromise in any way the political opening or the commitment to democracy that has been made by President Figueiredo, because when the law is obeyed the democratic process is strengthened."

Macedo reaffirmed that "Da Silva will not be returning to the presidency of the metalworkers union." He also rejected the hypothesis that the intervention and the arrest of Lula [Da Silva] will strengthen his political prestige.

The minister also denied that the intervention was implemented "to end the strike or to cause it to increase or decrease in scope."

He justified himself with the following argument: "If the labor leaders use their organizations for inappropriate purposes, and if they incite the workers to strike, it is within my brief as labor minister, after receiving the regional labor court's report, to carry out the law--and that is what I did."

Justice Minister Denies Role

PY211720 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Apr 80 p 19

[Excerpt] Brasilia--Justice Minister Abrahim Abi-Ackel asserted yesterday that the imprisonment of the labor leaders in Sao Paulo was a decision of the state government, and that his ministry has not been called upon nor has it taken any action. "I have only received fragmented information," he stressed, refusing to comment on whether those who have been arrested will be punished in accordance with the National Security Law.

He explained that lawyers Dalmo de Abreu Dallari and Jose Carlos Diaz were arrested "due to an error of interpretation," because the order did not come from the state governor, the Sao Paulo security secretariat or the military command. And he asserted: "Despite everything, the government insists on making this country a democracy."

"As soon as the error was found out," the minister said, "the two lawyers were immediately released." He did not wish to comment on the possibility of the labor leaders being punished in accordance with the National Security Law, and he did not believe it convenient to discuss the matter in a general way because his ministry "was not involved in the events, and the federal police were not called into action."

The Army Ministry has reported that the armed forces have not been mobilized to go into action, because this can only be accomplished through a request made by the Justice Ministry.

Army Denies Involvement

PY211541 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Apr 80 p 19

[Text] The chief of the Fifth Department of the 2d Army said yesterday that "the army is not involved in that event," and he stressed to reporters accredited to headquarters that "there is no one jailed at DOI-CODI [Department of Domestic Operations-Internal Defense Operations Center] and that the matter is fully in the hands of the DOPS [Department of Political and Social Order]."

Second Army headquarters has not released an official report regarding the arrests that were made yesterday morning. The army, through some officers, has limited itself to following the actions of the Sao Paulo police. "The state government is only applying the law based on Article 36 of the National Security Law which refers to incitement of strikes and agitation in the labor sector," stressed officers of the 2d Army.

POLICE FOIL ALLEGED PLOT TO ATTACK FIGUEIREDO

PY202045 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1715 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Text] Belo Horizonte (Brazil), 19 Apr (TELAM-EFE)--The Brazilian federal police have announced that they have frustrated an attack on President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo.

It was reported in a communique that on Monday [14 Apr] the police seized explosives earmarked for the attack on the president from a private house in Ouro Preto.

President Figueiredo will attend the 21 April celebrations to be held in Ouro Preto (100 km from Belo Horizonte) marking the anniversary of the Minas Gerais conspiracy [inconfidencia mineira] (an independence uprising during the colonial period).

The police have reported that after receiving an anonymous phone call about the preparation of an attack on the president, they searched the homes of several suspects and of several student and union leaders until they finally discovered the materiel prepared for the alleged attack.

They found five sticks of dynamite, an alarm clock, several electrical detonators, batteries connected in series and several meters of fuse in the house of engineer David Maximiano de Souza, 30, known by the security organizations to be an active member of the leftist [word indistinct] whose whereabouts are not known.

LATEST ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR CORN, SOYBEAN, RICE HARVESTS

PY161518 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Apr 80

[Text] The seventh estimate for the 1979-80 harvest released yesterday by the Production Financing Commission shows a reduction of between 1 and 2 percent in the corn harvest, which means 200,000 tons less than the estimate issued in March. Even so, the harvest will be between 20.4 and 21.05 million tons, a million tons more than the 1976-77 harvest, which was 19.2 million tons.

The estimated rice harvest will be 9.9 million tons; while it is believed that the soybean harvest will be 15.4 million tons, 200,000 tons more than indicated by prior estimates. In every case the changes have been caused by variations in productivity. [sentence as published] In the case of corn the figures reflect lower productivity for the states of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul; while the soybean situation is better than expected in Minas Gerais, Sao Paulo and Parana. As for rice, productivity estimates are higher for Santa Catarina, Sao Paulo and Mato Grosso.

BRIEFS

PLO OFFICE IN CEARA--Fortaleza--The PLO will establish an office in the capital of Ceara State on 24 April. This information has been released by the president of the Center of Studies and Support for Palestine, Amandio Celestino Saraiva. This will be the second PLO office in Brazil. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Apr 80 p 5 PY]

BOMB EXPLOSION KILLS TWO IN VALPARAISO

FY202153 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0003 GMT 20 Apr 80

[Text] Valparaiso, Chile, 19 Apr (LATIN)--The local police reported here today that two persons died and one was wounded in the explosion of a bomb disguised as a package which had been left on a street in this city.

The explosion took place at 1015 local time in downtown Valparaiso, 140 km northeast of Santiago. The fatalities have been identified as Galvarino Rocha and Roberto Pinto of the Municipal Works Department.

The person who was wounded has not been identified as yet and is currently wavering between life and death in a hospital here.

The police indicated that the victims were walking along the street when they found the package, which exploded as soon as they picked it up. It is believed that the package had been left by yet-to-be-identified extremists.

'RESISTANCE COMMAND' ADMITS BANK ROBBERIES

FY181645 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0221 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Text] The self-styled "Resistance Command" today claimed responsibility for the robberies last Friday of three banks in a Santiago neighborhood. This information was disclosed at the offices of several press agencies, which received a communique issued by the self-styled organization "Information Agency of the Resistance."

Members of the intelligence service believe that the "Resistance Command" is just another imaginary group invented by the outlawed Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

It was reported that five of six people arrested in a police raid conducted in connection with this case have been released. Jose Hidalgo Zamorano remains under arrest. Zamorano, who is known to be a member of the MIR, was expelled from the Chilean University last year when it was proved that he was involved in subversive activities on its Macul campus.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES EC PARLIAMENT ASKED AID CUT

FY181404 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has denied that the European Parliament approved a resolution against Chile and that it asked the nine EEC member countries to suspend all economic and military aid to the Chilean Government.

This statement was made by an official Foreign Ministry spokesman after Chilean Ambassador to Belgium Augusto Marambio, who is also Chilean representative to the EEC in Brussels, informed the Foreign Ministry that no decision was made in the European Parliament regarding the Chilean situation.

In explaining this issue, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that Ambassador Marambio has reported that there had been no vote, there had only been a debate on the Chilean domestic situation.

WORLD BANK ISSUES FIRST LOAN SINCE 1974

FY181342 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Text] The World Bank has granted Chile a $438 million loan to finance the establishment of a potable water system.

Last night the Foreign Ministry issued an official communique on this subject. The communique expresses the Chilean Government's satisfaction over the approval of this loan, since it will allow the financing of a project destined to satisfy the basic requirements of the population.

At the same time, the communique states that this decision by the World Bank has prevented political objections, such as those presented by some member countries, from hampering the approval of loans which are of a purely social nature.

The World Bank had not granted loans to Chile since 1974, for political reasons.

MINISTER REJECTS IDEA OF CIVILIAN ECONOMIC TEAM

PY181459 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Text] Finance Minister Sergio de Castro has repudiated statements by journalist (Ricardo Claro Valdes) published in a morning newspaper in this capital. In his article, Valdes supports the formation, in the political area, of a loyal and capable civilian team which would have the same power of the economic team.

In responding to this article, Minister de Castro has pointed out that he is complying with the moral duty to reject the attempt to use the proposed economic team to put in doubt the political loyalty and capacity of Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez and others who work with the president.

De Castro said literally that, with these people [the Cabinet], we form a single, coordinated and homogeneous government team which impels and carries out the guidelines established by the chief of state.

TAXI DRIVERS UNION LEADER RELEASED ON BAIL

PY190242 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0215 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 18 Apr (LATIN)--Juan Jara, top leader of the Chilean taxi drivers, was released today on a bail of $128 by the Santiago Court of Appeals after having been in detention for 9 days in the public prison of this capital.

JUDGE APPOINTED TO PROBE STOLEN FLAG CASE

PY181841 Paris AFP in Spanish 0536 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 18 Apr (AFP)--According to information released here, a Chilean court today appointed a special judge to investigate the theft of the Chilean independence flag, which is in the hands of an extremist group.

Attorney Marcos Libedinsky will be in charge of conducting and pronouncing a decision on the investigations which have been started in connection with the theft of the national flag from the historical museum on 30 March 1980.

BRIEFS

IMPORT, EXPORT FIGURES--(Teodoro Fuch), manager of the Foreign Trade Department of the Central Bank, has stated that exports for the first 2 months of 1980 increased by 94.5 percent as compared with the same period last year, for a 2-months total of $848 million. Imports for the same period reached $739 million. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 80 PY]

TEXT OF TURBAY AYALA ADDRESS TO NATION

PA202017 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Apr 80

[Speech by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala over radio and television network on 19 April--live]

[Excerpts] Fellow citizens: On few occasions have I appeared on radio and television to deliver a formal message to the nation. I think that the less the presidents make use of the massive communication media, the less will they bother their fellow citizens.

Today, however, I want to personally refer to two topics: The occupation of the Dominican Embassy, about which I cannot go into detail because negotiations are still in progress. The other topic is the Amnesty International report which obviously is subject to government comments, and which I wish to talk to you about.

In the case of the Dominican Embassy, the positions of the government and the occupants of the embassy are well known. The minister of foreign relations, Dr Diego Uribe Vargas, has had the opportunity to address the Colombian people over these same channels. I also had the chance to express my opinions through an interview granted to the newspaper, the Washington POST.

The government has not changed its stand of pursuing a humanitarian, legal, honorable, and above all, bloodless solution to the problem. To us there is no contradiction between fulfilling our national and international obligations.

Thus the nation has been able through its democratic history to subscribe to many conventions to insure human rights and to protect the honor, lives and the property of diplomats to our government. The same protection must be given to the entire population by constitutional mandate.

We do not ignore the natural concern of the hostages' families and their governments. We feel the same concern, heightened by the serious responsibility involving the handling of this matter.

Our comments on the report of Amnesty International are divided in the general presentation of the topic, to which I will refer now, and a second part, which refers chapter by chapter to the charges of Amnesty International.

When in July 1979 the president of the republic invited Amnesty International in London to visit Colombia, I knew that among the unofficial organizations protectoring human rights, this was the most controversial and questioned. Nevertheless, since the government had nothing to hide, it decided to support the invitation to Amnesty International to study the situation of human rights in Colombia and to make its recommendations.

The visit took place during the second half of January 1980 and the commissioners who came to Colombia were Canadian Dr Federico (Alodyn) who only spent 4 days in the country and then left for Canada; Spanish lawyer Antonio Carretero Perez and former student of the Universidad Javeriana, Edmundo Garcia, of the Philippines. His departure from Colombia in 1973 has not been clearly established, but he is reported to have traveled to Peru and enrolled in the Catholic University of Lima, later to return as correspondent of NOTICIAS ALIADAS and the LATIN AMERICAN PRESS, during which time he was questioned by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS). The visitors were greeted at the airport by among others, former Foreign Minister Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa and by the National Opposition Union (UNO) senator, Dr Humberto Priales de la Rosa.

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Various Activities

During the first days, they paid a call on the president of the republic, the ministers of government, foreign relations, justice and defense, and the nation's attorney general, from whom they received ample and documented information on the serious situation of public order affecting the country. The attorney general offered the visitors all his cooperation, but they failed to show any interest in any official information.

It is obvious that if the president of the republic had known when he visited London that Amnesty International already had drawn up the report not about Colombia, but against it, he would have never invited it to visit the country. The government believes that the recent report used the same sources as in 1979. In other words, the charges on alleged human rights violations that were strategically made by the prisoners' counsels to hide their horrible crimes against innocent victims were accepted as absolute truths. They partially attained their objective, however, since they were not able to confuse the Colombian public who has better and less slanted sources of information than those used by the delegates of Amnesty International.

Contradictions

In its own words, Amnesty International pursues the release of men and women imprisoned anywhere in the world because of their ideas, race, origins, [word indistinct], sex, language or religion as long as they have not resorted to violence or advocated it. Could anybody suppose that those persons now before Colombian courts to answer for crimes clearly defined in our penal laws have not resorted to or encouraged violence? The government firmly states that the murders of civilians and members of the armed forces claimed by the groups up in arms against the Colombian state cannot be construed as ideologic positions, but as repulsive acts of violence. Regardless of how much the commissioners of Amnesty International insist that those responsible for such crimes should be considered conscientious prisoners, they cannot convince anyone in the world. It is a shame that Amnesty International should have exceeded in its reports the limits established by its own statutes.

The inconsistency of the report is better seen if one bears in mind that it certifies "the difficult public order situations that the government has been facing partly because of the violent actions of armed groups or revolutionary movements."

It is truly unbelievable that on the one hand, Amnesty International accepts the violent actions of armed groups and on the other, contradicting what was said in its own statutes and report, it makes a dramatic claim in favor of those who have resorted to violence and advocated it. [sentence as heard]

Violations to the Sovereignty

The report of the commissioners of Amnesty International says that "the special measures implemented under the state of siege, particularly those contained in the security statute, will be incorporated as permanent laws into the new penal code."

"The delegation also perceived a serious concern in the sense that the recent constitutional reform of 1979 seems to limit the independence of the judicial authority with the establishment of new tools that tend to impose greater political control over the administration of justice."

Without proving these statements, the report suggests to the Colombian Government, as if it were a constituent body, that the 1979 constitutional amendment on the administration of justice be reviewed.

It makes a similar suggestion on the recently issued penal code which is the result of long years of study by prominent criminal lawyers of the traditional parties and which is considered by the experts on the subject a masterpiece of penal legislation in Latin America. The government believes that an organization such as Amnesty International cannot allow itself to be used and must behave seriously. This is why it should have cited the parts of Legislative Action No 1 of 1979 which, according to it, places justice in a position dependent on politics. It should also have cited the new articles of the penal code which allegedly include the regulations contained in the security statute which are of a transitory nature.

Colombia is an independent republic where sovereignty resides primarily in the nation. The public powers stem from this nation and are exercised based on the terms established by the Constitution. In no way is this country akin to a savage tribe which could accept the abusive intervention of an international organization that recommends the revision of its political Constitution, codes and legality.

This is an inadmissible presumption that the government rejects quietly but firmly.

Freedom and Rights of Workers

With the same superficiality that characterizes the entire report, special reference is made to an alleged labor persecution which ranges from harassment of union activities and mass arrests to the disappearances of persons, torture and killings of labor leaders. The delegates of Amnesty International never discussed these imaginary incidents with the labor minister. No Labor Ministry official was ever asked to supply any information on these charges. It is at the very least extravagant to make such statements without verifying if it is a matter of persons truly linked to labor unions and even if they were, if they were truly victims of government actions while they were involved in labor activities.

It is easy to see from the testimony of the leaders of the democratic labor confederations that the biased statements of this unfortunate report of the delegates of Amnesty International are false.

Vagueness

The mark of the Amnesty International report's libel is its surprising vagueness. Its 44 pages do not contain a single verified fact. The narrative part and the recommendations are based on rumors and testimonies, but not on evidence. Not a single piece of evidence is analyzed or a situation objectively studied.

Its writers decided to become the mouthpieces of the so-called political prisoners and renounced, without much scruples, telling the truth.

By criticizing Decree No 1923 of 1978 which they unreasonably consider to be a curtailment of human rights, they fail to refer to the Supreme Court ruling that made it constitutional. On the contrary, they play up two justices' abstention from voting because they did not share the majority view of the court. With these isolated testimonies, the report wants to set forth legal facts that are impossible to determine, such as attaching more validity to the abstentions than to the ruling. In other words, to Amnesty International the dissent of two justices who were the only ones to air their views is more worthy of respect than the views of the 19 justices who confirmed the constitutional nature of the decree. This step also confirms the hostile attitude of the delegates of Amnesty International, whose headquarters is in Bonn.

Significant Silence

We urge the readers of the report to criticize even briefly the many and horrible crimes committed here by terrorist groups that have been striking harsh blows to innocent individuals who are almost always alien to politics. No reference is made in the text of the report to the people's prisons, the theft of weapons from the northern army depot, the killings of labor leader Jose Raquel Mercado, [name indistinct] manager Dr Nicolas Escobar and former Government Minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas.

Yet, there has not been an allegation that has not been made against the Colombian armed forces. According to the report, they have killed peasants, workers and students. They have abducted several persons, tortured most prisoners and imposed a rigged justice. The military justice is attacked with the argument that the civilians should not be tried by military judges, but it forgets the special public order situation that led to this transitory practice as one of the special measures aimed at removing the factors that contribute to the disruption of order.

Anyone who knows our laws would know that the military justice, as the Supreme Court said in its ruling of 13 August 1979, "expands its sphere to try common crimes through the authroization of the Constitution." The Supreme Court added that "under the state of siege, Article No 61 of the Constitution permits the expansion of the military jurisdiction so that it can try common ctimes when they are connected with the disruption of public order or when they are related to the causes which originated this disruption."

The Colombian military officers have never demanded the expansion of military jurisdiction. It has been the circumstances that have led the different governments headed by illustrious democrats to ask the armed forces to do that in order to prevent an increase in trouble.

By inviting Amnesty International to come to Colombia, the president hoped that it would tell him of cases the government did not know about in order to investigate them. However, Amnesty International did not seize the opportunity to discreetly serve the noble cause of the defense of human rights and instead flayed against the legal institutions, the governments of the past 30 years and the armed forces of the republic. Its main interest was to justify the report that it had already outlined before coming to Colombia.

Of course, the excesses of this report will not daunt the government's desire to be inflexible in the investigation and punishment of human rights violations by civilian or military authorities.

We can see again with puzzlement how the document disregards Law No 1 of 1979 which amended the Constitution in a very important manner. This law made the defense of human rights a constitutional mandate and entrusted it to an autonomous institution independent from the executive branch. By Presidential Initiative Article 40 of this law attributed the defense of human rights to the attorney general and his agents. He was given special powers, such as the possibility to demand complete information without any resistance from the people, to watch over the behavior of administration and judicial officials, to submit bills to Congress regarding the defense of human rights, and to hear the complaints of citizens about human right violations, investigate them, state his opinion on them and seek the legal pertinent procedure to punish those responsible for them.

It is inexplicable that a report, whose main topic is the defense of human rights, should fail to mention the new Colombian amendment that gave powers to the attorney general to protect human rights.

State of Siege

The report maintains more superficially than reasonably that in view of the state of siege, the security statute and other legislative decrees, human rights are being violated in Colombia and arbitrariness prevails through mass arrests, arbitrary detentions, torture, killings, disappearances and other abuses. It is not strange to read this if we consider the complete ignorance that the report shows regarding the local laws. If Amnesty International were familiar with the text of our Constitution, it would have easily detected that according to Article 28 "even in times of peace, to justifiably fight disturbances, the government can order the arrest of people accused of causing disturbances with the prior (?approval) of the ministers."

It is not then a decision adopted under the state of siege and much less under Decree 1923 of 1978. It is a constitutional mandate which has permitted arrests during peaceful times of [words indistinct].

Illustrious rulers and lawyers have maintained that under the state of seige the 10-day deadline mentioned in Article 28 to release persons who have been indicted or to place them at the disposal of pertinent judges with the corresponding evidence does not apply. However, from the two interpretations, this government has opted for the one with a restrictive nature. The Council of State was asked about this and it agreed. Consequently, persons who were indicted were placed at the disposal of pertinent judges after the 10-day period established by the Constitution. In many cases judges ordered their arrest and in many others they let them go.

Whoever takes a thorough look at the situation of the prisoners mentioned in the report will reach the conclusion that most of them were arrested under Article 28 and not the decrees issued under the state of seige. However, it must be admitted that the sentences imposed on those responsible for crimes and contained in the decrees in question.

Previous Requirements

Despite the way in which the powers of the executive branch have been reduced under the state of siege, the government has publicly and solemnly vowed to create the conditions to remove the causes of the disturbances and insure that this and the future administrations will not have to resort to special measures.

I promosed when I was a candidate to undertake institutional reforms as a previous step to the lifting of the state of seige. As the chief of state, I have promoted the reforms to the judiciary, the Congress, the codes and the university education. All these reforms will make it possible to end the transitory measures that the executive branch has had to resort to today to prevent the dissolution of the de jure system.

The government is not indifferent to the fate of the Colombian democracy and it cannot let crime and anarchy--passing themselves off as a social revolution--take over just for the sake of an ephemeral popularity. The government ic calmly marching toward the desired goal of a complete normalcy with the invaluable help of Congress and the Liberal and Conservative parties.

Opposition and Subversion

The president of the republic has said the return to normalcy is not just the work of the authorities but that in order to achieve this, the subversive groups must put down their arms and return to the paths of civil and democratic opposition.

The government must give guarantees to all parties without excluding the opposition parties no matter how extreme they are. However, the constitution orders the government to fight subversion and although at the present time this subversion cannot topple the government, it can attack it and commit terrorist actions which affect people who are not regarded as responsible for the actions that the insurgents use as a pretext for their terrible deeds.

The executive branch has reiterated its decision to return to normalcy. Those who have not decided to do this are those who seek other objectives using the widest variety of means including the encouragement of and justification for terrorist activities by certain organizations and individuals. Good night.

OAS COMMISSION BEGINS HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATION 21 APR

PA211720 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Report by newswoman Elaime Maria Mojica]

[Text] The OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission will start a thorough investigation today on the implementation of human rights in Colombia with initial visits with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and the presidents of the Congress and the Supreme Court.

The commission, made up of prominent Latin Americam lawyers, is involved in these activities at the request of the Colombian Government. The OAS commission reported that the program includes the inspection of the courts-martial which are currently underway as well as visits to jails in the country's largest cities. The commission stated that the investigations will be carried out within a framework of impartiality. Meanwhile, President Turbay Ayala affirmed that the commission has been given powers to carry out its activities freely.

Edmundo Vargas Carreno, executive secretary of the OAS, talked to this newscast, noting that aside from the duties that the commission will carry out here, it will release the report on Argentina, where many very serious human rights violations were confirmed. In a message, the commission mentions Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla as the person primarily responsible for these deeds during the period 1975-1979.

Regarding the activities that it will carry out in Colombia, Edmundo Vargas Carreno, a Chilean lawyer, said:

[Begin recording] We are starting this visit later on today with a meeting of the commission with the president of the republic. He will be accompanied by several ministers. Later on, the commission will visit the president of the Congress and the president of the Supreme Court. These investigations normally start with meetings with the country's top authorities.

[Question] Regarding the rest of the program [words indistinct] what can you tell us about the activities of the following days?

[Answer] The program is not excessively rigid. We have planned a very busy schedule. Some activities may be changed from one day to the next but basically the commission will go to Cali and Medellin to visit jails, observe courts-martial, meet with political and military leaders and [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Regarding the Argentine situation, where human rights violations were confirmed, Vargas Carreno said the following:

[Begin recording] A report was drafted and as you said it was delivered to the agency [not further identified] after very hard work.

This was a report that the commission drafted as a result of its observations and investigations on the status of human rights in Argentina in September and which contains documents that attest to the state of these rights in Argentina. [end recording]

The Inter-American Human Rights Commission will meet with the president at 1100 this morning. In the afternoon it will meet with the presidents of the Congress and the Supreme Court.

Meeting With Turbay Ayala

PA212145 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala today received the members of the OAS Human Rights Commission at Narino Palace in Bogota. The commissioners, headed by U.S. lawyer Thomas Farber, began a 10-day investigation on the state of the human rights in Colombia.

Government Minister German Zea Hernandez, Defense Minister Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, Justice Minister Hugo Escobar Sierra and Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas attended the meeting which lasted more than 1 and 1/2 hours.

Communique Issued

PA220256 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] At the conclusion of their 2-hour meeting with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala at Narino Palace in Bogota, the members of the OAS Human Rights Commission gave the news media a communique that was read by one of the members.

[Begin recording] This communique will be distributed to all of you. The communique states: The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights today initiated its activities in Colombian territory. One of the objectives of this commission is to promote respect for human rights in the member states of the OAS.

The commission is composed of its president, Prof (Don Faruk) and by members Dr Francisco Beltran, Enrique Duarte, Carlos (Puentelabran), [name indistinct] and Cesar Sepulveda. The executive secretary will be Dr Edmundo Vargas Carreno, who will have the assistance of professional, technical and administrative personnel.

Dr Marcos Girardo Monroy, vice president and member of the commission, who is a Colombian national, will not participate in the present observation work according to the norms governing the commission, which do not allow commission members from a given country to participate in the observations carried out in their own fatherland.

The visit of the commission to this country is the result of an invitation made by the Colombian Government, which has given assurances that the commission will have unrestricted freedom and the necessary facilities to fulfill its activities.

The purpose of the visit is to observe the state of human rights in Colombia and, in this context, the courts-martial taking place at present. Another objective is to investigate abuse-of-authority charges against public officials.

To comply with these objectives, the commission will hold meetings with authorities and persons, entities, and sectors representative of Colombian society.

The commission will visit other cities in the country, carry out investigations in prisons and file whatever charges are presented to it. Charges will be recorded in the commission's offices in Rooms 320 and 332 of the Tequendama Hotel, in Bogota, from Tuesday, 22 April, to Friday, 25 April, from 1000 to 1300 and from 1500 to 1800.

The commission hopes that during its stay in Colombia, the various sectors in the country will give their valuable cooperation to contribute to an objective report on human rights. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT REJECTS M-19 PROPOSAL FOR SUMMIT IN PANAMA

PA211415 Paris AFP in Spanish 1353 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] Bogota, 21 Apr (AFP)--According to statements by Government Minister German Zea Hernandez to the Radio Cadena Nacional network, the Colombian Government rejected here today the proposal made by the 19 April Movement [M-19] to hold a summit with notables in Panama.

We have not lost a war so as to sit and have talks with the subversives, the minister said.

Puerto Rico Suggested

PA211701 Paris AFP in Spanish 1425 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] Bogota, 21 Apr (AFP)--Rosemberg Pabon Pabon, Commander Uno of the M-19 which is holding the Dominican Embassy here, has disclosed that the Colombian Government has suggested that the guerrillas go to Puerto Rico.

The guerrilla chief stated that many countries, including Panama and Cuba, have offered to accept them whenever they leave the embassy, but did not specify whether he had already made a decision as to the country where they will go accompanied by some of the hostages.

When questioned by a reporter from the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR, which he telephoned a few hours ago regarding the country where they would go, Pabon Pabon answered: We have been thinking about accepting Panama's or Cuba's offer, in line with the proposal we made to the government. However, the government has offered, through third parties, to allow us to go to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The terrorist blamed the government for prolonging the problem. He stated that with this attitude the government believes it can weaken us but we are becoming stronger every day.

ROMANIANS VIEW BARRANQUILLA AS IDEAL PLACE FOR PLANT

PA211706 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] Bogota--The Romanian delegation that is visiting Colombia praised the excellent conditions that Barranquilla has to make it the site of the factory for the Andean Camper. The Romanian delegation, headed by the Romanian ambassador to Colombia, visited several places where the factory may eventually be built. This factory will supply the countries which signed the Cartagena Agreement with Campers. One of the delegation members said that Barranquilla has the necessary infrastructure for the installation of an assembly plant.

CONGRESS RECESSES UNTIL 28 APR TO STUDY REFORMS

PA220309 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0054 GMT 22 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Quito, 21 Apr (EFE)--The Ecuadorean Congress, which today held a special session, has opened the way for an understanding with the government of President Jaime Roldos by calling a recess to study a constitutional reform bill.

The bill was presented today by a commission of retired political personalities who are seeking a solution to the struggle between the executive and legislative powers that has characterized the 8 months of the new-born democracy following 9 years of dictatorships.

The main aspect of the reform is that it calls for replacing the present unicameral legislative body by one with two chambers, but without affecting the present members of the legislature.

To this effect, the commission proposed three alternate requirements. [sentence as received] In delivering the bill, former President Andres F. Cordova, a member of the commission, said that his personal effort was aimed only at overcoming the political crisis.

The legislative leader, Asaad Bucaram, stated his appreciation for the contribution but cautioned that discrepancies can never be eliminated. He offered to present the reforms bill to the special congressional meeting.

Once the special period of meetings of the Congress was opened, as a result of a previous agreement among the various legislative blocs, it was decided to declare a recess until Monday to study the commission's reform bill.

BELGIUM GRANTS 100 MILLION FRANC LOAN

PA211749 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] The Ecuadorean Government has adopted a gradual plan which will permit the country to become economically and socially democratic through a balance between economic growth and social justice, vice president Dr Osvaldo Hurtado said during last night's speech at the Foreign Ministry during the banquet held for the Belgian Prince Albert and his official retinue. Dr Hurtado stressed the favorable assessment of the Belgian Government and its cooperation with economic plans for the good of the majority of Ecuadoreans.

The vice president cited the 100 million Belgian franc credit and other credits which will permit Ecuador to receive nearly 1 billion [presumably francs] in the next 5 years for social programs. Prince Albert, who has been a guest of the Ecuadorean Government since Saturday, toured the city yesterday and had lunch with Dr Germanico Salgado, industries, commerce and integration minister.

Prince Albert's agenda today includes a meeting with Foreign Minister Alfredo Pareja Diezcanseco, the vice president's explanation of the development plan, and visits with the defense minister and city mayor Dr Alvaro Perez (Intriago) in the afternoon.

HERRERA CAMPINS INTERVIEWED PRIOR TO PARIS VISIT

LD211223 Paris LE MONDE in French 13-14 Apr 80 pp 5, 10

[Jean-Pierre Clarc interview with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins in Caracas: "I Believe in the Value of Dialogue Between Less Developed Countries and Developing Countries"--date of interview not specified]

[Text] [Question] What are the main topics you will discuss during your visit to Paris?

[Answer] I am the president of a so-called "oil-producing" country; therefore, the energy crisis and the oil question will inevitably be the main subject of discussion. Your Industry Minister Giraud has already come here to work with our exprets on oil questions. We are about to sign new agreements, containing terms more favorable to us, with the multinational oil companies which exploited our oil until nationalization 1 January 1976. This is the time to seek new clients, new markets in the world and to offer guarantees to our old clients. Our reserves of heavy and very heavy oil are increasing. We are therefore going to ask our clients to buy heavy oil as well as light and medium oil.

Everybody knows that Venezuela is a realistic country which is following a responsible oil policy. We will give supply guarantees to all our clients both old and new. Today this assurance is more important than the price question.

It is also known that Venezuela advocates a single pricing system within OPEC. This is a different solution to achieve but it is the only one which enables both producer and consumer to know where they stand.

We are also trying to obtain concessions in the sphere of technology. We think that France can help us since it is very advanced in this sphere, and its thinking is closer to our own than countries such as Japan or the Anglo-Saxon countries.

I believe that we can also reach major agreements as regards the agricultural development, urban transport, electricity, the organization and running of the urban police force, public administration and so forth.

[Question] What seems to you to be the most suitable framework for your relations with the EC?

[Answer] We do not rule out any framework, whether a bilateral framework, or the Latin American Economic System [SELA] or the Andean Pact. However, we certainly believe strongly in relations between the EEC and the Andean Group. This is mainly because the Andean Pact is more homogeneous than SELA and because the five countries belonging to it will, after the elections in Peru next May, all have democratic governments. I have always thought that Europe was to make its rapprochement with us conditional on the existence of democratic regimes in our countries. Europe should be more aware that we are largely an extension of it on the other side of the Atlantic. Strong ties between Europe and us would certainly be a decisive step toward progress in North-South dialog.

Giving Nicaragua All the Aid it Needs

[Question] You have just returned from Nicaragua. You promised the new revolutionary authorities Venezuelan support in rebuilding their country. Your government is Christian Democratic and they are largely influenced by Marxism. Is that not a paradox?

[Answer] Central America is a volcanic region in all senses of the term. Even the calm lakes lie in craters and it is a region which has suffered a great deal both from local dictatorships and from direct and indirect U.S. interventions. In addition, these are countries which are suffering from the rising cost of the products they import, including oil, and whose foreign debt repayments exceed their foreign investments. How are they going to be able to survive? If the governments allow inflation to "take its course" it causes an intolerable situation for the populations. If they subsidize essential products it is intolerable for the governments. How can they live in these conditions and live freely to boot? This is not so far removed from your question on Nicaragua....

Venezuela opposed Somoza's dictatorship from the start. Cesar Sandino has always been admired in our country. Nonetheless there are worrisome Marxist elements in the Sandinist revolution. At the same time, in Nicaragua there are elements which are very different from those in Cuba in the early sixties. Above all there is the fact that the Christians took an active part in the struggle. There are two priests in the Managua government. Monsignor Ovando y Bravo, the archbishop of Managua, was one of the spearheads of the struggle against the dictatorship and has unquestioned moral authority in the country.

There is a higher council of private enterprises in Nicaragua which ought probably to be more aware of the changes which have taken place. There is a powerful Christian Workers' Confederation. There are parties such as the Social Christian Party which advocates change without being Marxist. There is junta member Alfonso Robelo's National Democratic Movement and a human rights commission headed by Jose Esteban Gonzalez, a brilliant and respected lawyer.

All that explains why we want to give Nicaragua all the aid necessary to enable a people who, after 40 years of dictatorship, want democracy, to live in freedom and not under a totalitarian leftwing regime. We do not want anybody to be able to say that Nicaragua took a certain line simply because no friendly country held out its hand at a difficult time.

[Question] Will you say that to the president of the French Republic?

[Answer] I have already stated this position. I did so to the U.S. Government in particular. Nicaragua must not be abandoned. We must not allow ourselves to be overcome by pessimism. I would like to add something else which should be taken into account: The Sandinists never used terrorism as a means of struggle before or after their victory.

[Question] Is that a reference to the situation in El Salvador?

[Answer] The situation in El Salvador is very difficult because of the obstinacy shown by previous governments which refused any move toward democracy. In this overpopulated country which is economically controlled by a few family groups with the support of particularly harsh military groups, the present government junta is making efforts to control a situation which in many respects is presently beyond its control.

In El Salvador there are rightwing and leftwing terrorist groups and I am afraid that with so much terrorism around them many people in that country have grown accustomed to shooting without any tears for the blood they shed.

Role of El Salvador Christian Democratic Party

In this context there is the Christian Democratic Party which has won the elections twice, in 1972 and 1977, and which has twice been stripped of its victory by rightwing soldiers.

The leader of the Christian Democratic Party, Jose Napoleon Duarte, is an old fighter of the Christian Democratic Party. Jose Napoleon Durate is an old fighter for democracy and a personal friend and I know that he "feels for his country." He was exiled by the military in 1972 after being tortured and took refuge here in Caracas.

There are young officers in the government junta who find it difficult to control the armed forces, even the junior officers. In this violent situation they have decided to nationalize the banks and launch agrarian reform. I certainly do not envy them, especially since Monsignor Romero's foul murder.

Where is El Salvador going? What solution can there be? Pessimism is prevailing. The real problem is finding interlocutors. Venezuela is prepared to do everything necessary to insure that peace and freedom reign throughout Central America. But frankly, so far nobody has a very clear idea of what can be done about the El Salvador situation.

[Question] What is the state of your relations with the United States?

[Answer] Very cordial. President Carter's human rights policy should be encouraged. Our scientific and technological relations are developing smoothly.

[Question] Do you think the North-South dialogue will be resumed shortly?

[Answer] Yes, this is a pressing issue with all the problems it presents. We discussed it a few weeks ago at an OPEC meeting. First we would like to agree on our fundamental common criteria as oil-producing countries. Then we would meet with other developing countries on these bases, which we call the South-South dialogue, and then we would have talks with the North.

I firmly believe in the value of dialogue between less-developed countries and developing countries with natural resources in order to implement a program to launch economic development in the poorest part of the Third World.

[Question] What are your government's priorities in the domestic sphere?

[Answer] Education, agriculture, improving the condition of the most underprivileged citizens and reorganizing public administration. We view education in a very full way--embracing science, culture, sports and so forth. We have already greatly improved rural schools and have paid a great deal of attention to technical and technological education, at the university level too, and to applied research. We hope to set up a higher education center for young Third World technicians in Caracas, if possible with OPEC financing.

In the agricultural sphere my first concern is to put peasants' title deeds into proper form. Some 37,000 families have already received such deeds: 80,000 will hold them before the end of my 5-year term. We have extended the area of irrigated land and are pursuing this task. In addition we have increased the production of some products which we usually have to import and this has been done thanks to a reassessment of the prices paid to producers.

[Question] However, that has led to major increases in retail prices.

[Answer] That is true. However, the prices of the main mass consumer products, notably food products, are still controlled. Venezuela is certainly a country which is "highly protected" by the state and this removes any spirit of competition among entrepreneurs, who enjoy very favorable positions. My government has decided to introduce competition for anything which is not a basic necessity. That required considerable political courage.

A success which nobody can dispute is the fact that we eliminated the balance of payments deficit for the first time in 1979, notably by making a substantial reduction in imports of nonessential goods, starting with whiskey.

[Question] Your opponents accuse you of being a secret supporter of the Chicago School theories.

[Answer] I am not dogmatic. I take measures which are in keeping with our situation. I know that a price policy stimulates production and reduces superfluous imports. I am trying to be everybody's president and to listen to everybody. The phenomenon of fringe groups in society is not just an economic problem but is above all a cultural problem. Hence our concern for education.

[Question] Equality of opportunity depends on being able to find a job. Are you not putting the cart before the horse by giving priority to social problems?

[Answer] The previous government did a great deal to create jobs. However, many of these were parasitic jobs. They merely extended our bureaucracy. We want to reduce our bureaucracy.

Combating unemployment above all means fighting inflation, improving productivity, reviving the taste for work, declaring war on idleness, strikes and the constant threat of social conflicts and reducing the turnover in the labor force which is damaging some industries.

[Question] Your image as "leftwing Christian Democratic candidate" will be damaged by this.

[Answer] I am trying to do what the country needs. The ordinary people know that when I say I love the poor, these are not just empty words.

An Austere Government

[Question] Some 3 years ago when you were simply a candidate for the presidency you told me that you would give a great deal of attention to improving the civil service and public services. Have you made progress?

[Answer] This is a serious question. In this country there is no awareness of public service. On the contrary there is a shocking tradition of abuse. That must be changed gradually. Communications have already been improved a little. I admit that there is still a great deal to be done....

[Question] There is a great deal of talk about the scandal in which President Carlos Andres Perez, your predecessor, was implicated. Is the damage which this affair has done to Democratic Action, the opposition party, not likely to undermine the citizens' confidence in Venezuelan democracy?

[Answer] It is essential to act cautiously and responsibly in corruption affairs. Otherwise there is a danger of government bodies being paralyzed by fear of accusations. An austere government like mine certainly has more opportunity for combating corruption.

My government strives to give full support to the competent bodies in monitoring the administration's activities. I hope that the debate which is to be held in Congress on this subject will be serious and responsible. My conclusion on this point is that the fight against corruption requires sound laws but, above all, the choice of honest people for public office.

[Question] The previous government was so active that it was sometimes accused of activism. Yours, however, is often accused of ultraconservatism.

[Answer] We have a popular saying: More haste, less speed.

Herrera Returns From France

PA190227 Paris AFP in Spanish 0221 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Text] Caracas, 18 Apr (AFP)--President Luis Herrera Campins returned to Venezuela tonight after an official 5-day visit to France. Herrera arrived at Simon Bolivar Airport at 2120 local time (0120 GMT on Saturday).

HOSTAGES IN BOGOTA FORBIDDEN TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS

PA210029 Paris AFP in Spanish 2253 GMT 20 Apr 80

[Text] Caracas, 20 Apr (AFP)--Oswaldo Paez Pumar, Venezuelan deputy foreign minister said here today that the Venezuelan Government has forbidden its diplomats being held hostage at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota to participate in the talks between the Colombian Government and the M-19 guerrillas.

Paez Pumar said that the Foreign Ministry has ordered Francisco Pacheco Santander, Venezuelan consul in Bogota, to refrain from participating in any of the talks because this would give the public the impression that Venezuela is participating in the talks.

He added that Venezuela has very clearly stated that people who are being deprived of their freedom are not in a condition to represent the Venezuelan Government.

There are two Venezuelan hostages at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, Ambassador Virgilio Lovera and Consul Pacheco Santander.

Paez Pumar said that several days ago the diplomats being held hostage at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota refused to continue participating in the talks and on Friday they unexpectedly asked the Venezuelan consul to participate. He accepted and the talks began in his presence. When we found out, however, we ordered him to refrain from attending the talks.

ASYLUM WILL NOT BE OFFERED TO CUBAN REFUGEES

PA170448 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Apr 80

[Text] Panama can offer the Cuban refugees in the Peruvian Embassy in Havana all types of facilities for transportation and food, but it has not planned to grant political asylum to those persons, a high-ranking official of the Foreign Ministry stated this afternoon.

In exclusive statements for the National Radio Broadcasting Service, our source stressed that if Cubans enter our diplomatic mission in Cuba, Panama would have to seek a solution to that problem. For the moment, the official said, our country cannot intervene in a matter that is strictly bilateral between the governments of Peru and Cuba.

Our source denied categorically that the Panamanian Embassy in Havana was under heavy guard by the Cuban armed forces in order to prevent the requesting of political asylum in the diplomatic mission.

Asked about the possibility of any Cuban requesting political asylum in the Panamanian diplomatic mission, the official stated that our country has always been known for granting refuge to whomever requests it. However, said our source, Panama has diverse internal problems such as the emergency plan and nationwide unemployment whose solutions call for the greatest efforts of the central government.

Our source also said that many meetings of bilateral nature have been held by the Panamanian Government and diplomatic representatives of Peru and Cuba, but that these were strictly of an informational nature.

Concluding, the Foreign Ministry official assured that Panama would not object if the Cubans utilized our country as a point of transit to then depart for any other nation that has granted them political asylum.

CRITICA REPORTS 'POSTAL VIOLATIONS' BY U.S. MILITARY

PA192252 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Apr 80 p 8

[Text] National Post Office officials have been keeping unusually quiet regarding the constant violations occurring in the U.S. military post offices based in the canal area since they use only U.S. stamps and not Panamanian stamps.

Panamanian Governments since 1904 have insisted to the International Postal Union that the so-called Canal Zone authorities use Panamanian stamps for both civilian and military mail. Despite a struggle of "generations," it was just 9 months ago when the canal treaties were put into effect that national stamps began to be used in the old "Zonian" jurisdiction. The National Treasury, and consequently the Panamanian people, lost millions of balboas during the 70 years of colonial imposition as far as the mail is concerned.

Now that it seemed these tactics were on the wane, we have found out that the military post offices operating under the aegis of the Ancon Hill-based U.S. Southern Command are not using our stamps and so are violating national sovereignty.

The Geneva-based International Postal Union has already been informed of these constant violations committed by the Americans in Panama and let us hope its official word will be heard correcting this situation which is damaging to the treasury and national sovereignty.

ROYO DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S., CANAL BOARD

PA201334 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Manuel Santamaria Llamas interview with Panamanian President Aristides Royo; no date given; presumably recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] How is our international policy going as far as loans and political relationships are concerned?

[Answer] Well, we have no international problem now. We are at peace practically with the entire world. The country is calm and we are focusing on internal affairs which require a lot of our attention. We have, however, increased cooperation with some countries such as Japan, which is an obvious case. We will also do so with Taiwan, which is also important. Relations with the United States of America are not so easy because some adjustments have to be made. We are waiting for the new [Canal] Executive Board to be set up and then we will see what happens because President Carter has promised us that many maladjustments and problems will be solved by the board. We will wait and see.

[Question] Do you think the positive side of relations with the United States will be short, medium or long term?

[Answer] The positive side? I don't know. With the United States, that can never be foretold because it is a country of rather unpredictable individuals.

GOVERNMENT DENIES INTERVENTION IN EL SALVADOR

PA190236 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1621 GMT 18 Apr 80

[By Claudio Herrera]

[Text] Panama City, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Rodriguez denied statements by the Christian Democratic Party which assert that the regime of President Aristides Royo is intervening in the internal affairs of El Salvador.

In the opinion of Panamanian Christian Democrats, expressed in a communique released by Secretary General Guillermo Cochez, the government of this country is encouraging intervention in the internal affairs of other nations and rejects the accepted paths to international solidarity.

Cochez referred specifically to a communique issued by Minister Rodriguez on 9 April, which he describes as "an insult to public opinion," since it "admits that a well-known official figure (former Vice Minister Hugo Spadafora) has been organizing paramilitary groups both inside the country and abroad to intervene in the internal affairs of other states."

The minister, approached by ACAN-EFE replied: "We have already publicly declared we are not intervening in El Salvador," and reiterated the contents of the 9 April communique which states that the activities of Spadafora are "his own exclusive initiative and responsibility."

Neither the government nor the Panamanian National Guard (army and police) are participating in these activities, said Rodriguez.

Spadafora, a doctor of medicine, left his post as vice minister of health in Gen Omar Torrijos' government in 1978 to organize and direct the "Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade," a group of Panamanians who fought in Nicaragua on the side of the "Sandinist National Liberation Front" (FSLN).

Spadafora had previously served as a medic with the Guinean guerrillas headed by Amilcar Cabral.

Minister Rodriguez told ACAN-EFE that "if there are Panamanians who have expressed their scorn for the present Salvadoran Government, that is their own concern, just as it is the concern of local Christian Democrats whether or not they support their Salvadoran Christian Democratic colleagues."

Rodriguez insisted that the Panamanian Government has adopted all the required security measures to prevent this country from serving as a base of activities for persons or groups against El Salvador.

The Christian Democrats also accused General Torrijos of meddling in the affairs of other states.

"The commander in chief of the National Guard--Cochez says--again oversteps in his obligations by meddling in matters which the Constitution reserves for the president and his foreign minister. He behaved similarly in Nicaragua under the pretext of helping overthrow a tyrant who just a short time before had been his friend. Now he is again involved in similar activities in El Salvador, trying to weaken a government that is engaged in profound social changes and an authentic democratization process after ousting a military dictatorship who also up to a short time ago were friends of General Torrijos."

"In both cases," Cochez adds, "the intervention promoted by the chief of the public forces culminates by favoring armed groups whose leaderships have Marxist-Leninist oreintation."

The information office of the presidency, consulted by ACAN-EFE on this matter, claimed to have no knowledge of the communique. The Foreign Ministry made no comment in view of the absence of Minister Carlos Ozores.

The Christian Democrats in their communiques also criticized the "official silence" on the request filed by the Peruvian Government to receive some of the more than 10,000 Cubans who sought refuge in Havana.

Cochez adds that the Royo administration "in the past was prompt to offer asylum to foreign extremists."

Minister Rodriguez said that the case of the Cuban refugees in Havana is a matter that concerns the governments of Peru and Cuba, and that "Panama is merely observing to insure respect for the principle of extraterritoriality of embassies."

BELIZEAN MINISTERS VISIT, DISCUSS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

PA181426 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Apr 80

[Text] President Aristides Royo today received Said Musa and Assad Shoman, Belizean education and health ministers respectively. The meeting was held to discuss the technical assistance that Panama will give to Belize in the areas of health and public education. The two Belizean officials told President Royo they were very pleased over the aid that our country will offer to theirs, describing it as valuable because of Panama's significant progress in these two areas. The president of the republic was accompanied by Presidency Minister Rogelio Fabrega and Health Minister Jorge Medrano during the meeting.

COSTA RICA

SPOKESMAN SAYS 10,000 CUBAN REFUGEES CAN BE GRANTED ASYLUM

PA211237 San Jose Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] Our country informed Cuba yesterday that it is willing to grant permanent asylum to the 10,000 Cubans who are still trying to leave the Caribbean nation, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has reported.

Our government had originally announced that it would receive only 300 refugees on a permanent basis because it couldn't handle any more. However, Cabinet Chief [title as heard] Carlos Aguilar reported that private and government donations received here from all parts of the world will allow Costa Rica to take care of the 10,000 Cubans.

We will let them stay here but they may also go to other countries if they so desire, another official stated.

CUBA HAS NOT ANSWERED AIRLIFT REQUEST

PA211508 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] The Costa Rican Government last night asked the Cuban Government to reestablish the airlift. So far, no answer has been received from the Cuban Government. In the meantime, the Costa Rican consul was recalled by President Carazo for consultations.

Costa Rican authorities reported that Luis Conte Aguero and other Cuban exiles who reside in Miami are expected here today to coordinate aid for Cuban refugees with the Costa Rican authorities.

In another report, the rumors which circulated yesterday to the effect that Juanita Castro, Fidel's sister, was in our country, were denied by Costa Rican authorities.

Flights to Cuba Disapproved

PA211653 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1614 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] The Cuban consul general has delivered a communique from the Cuban Foreign Ministry to the Costa Rican authorities which says:

Following instructions from the Cuban Foreign Ministry, the Cuban General Consulate informs the Costa Rican authorities that the flights to Cuba cannot be authorized, as requested in an unnumbered note on 20 April, inasmuch as no agreement on this matter has been reached with the Cuban Government.

This means that the Cuban Government will not permit the exit of Cuban refugees from the Peruvian Embassy in Havana. Nevertheless, the Costa Rican Government has announced that it will continue making efforts to have the Cuban Government issue a resolution regarding the Costa Rican proposal to accept the 10,300 Cuban refugees as permanent exiles in Costa Rica.

EDITORIAL SAYS CARAZO WINNER IN 'STRUGGLE' WITH CASTRO

PA192141 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Station editorial]

[Text] The winner of the political struggle between Fidel Castro and Rodrigo Carazo has undoubtedly been our fellow countryman. Fidel Castro has been in an ugly mood while Carazo has been picking on his errors with a smile.

We don't understand the reason for the violent, aggressive and tactless attitude of Mr Castro, who has given the matter a personal tint. Fine. It is a personal matter, but the political aspect has been won by Carazo. Carazo has come out as the politician of freedom, Castro as the politician of aggression. Carazo has come out as the politician of peace, Castro as the politician of violence.

It has been very seldom that we have shared Carazo's theses. In this matter, Carazo has been helped by more than luck. He has been helped by finding an opponent who was easy to defeat. Fidel Castro is no longer that adroit man who was able to make fun of all the politicians of Latin America. Fidel Castro is no longer the man defended by Raul Roa in the national arena. Fidel Castro today is a man without luster, authority or the capacity to issue commands.

One day he says the air bridge is over and the next day he denies saying it. One day he throws a Costa Rican consul out of a window and the next he sends the militia to beat those who don't share his opinions.

The world is watching the failure of Fidel Castro.

There is a revolution that has destroyed a liver, [as heard] that has ended in a great failure. There is a revolution that cannot face the expectations of a world that looks at it with disappointment. The admiration we once had for the Cuban revolution no longer exists.

The European countries met yesterday and called for aid for those fleeing Cuba. They have called for cooperation, for the defense of human beings.

Good-bye to Fidel Castro's prestige. Good-bye to what he did, to what he destroyed now after 21 years of hard work. Rodrigo Carazo is harvesting victory with open arms.

SOCIALIST LEADER ASSAILS COUNTRY ON CUBAN REFUGEES

PA200340 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 80

[Text] Alvaro Montero, secretary general of the Costa Rican Socialist Party, has said that social and economic advance in Cuba and its international policy generate the imperialists' hatred. Therefore, hemispheric revolutionaries are dutybound to unmask every intrigue and conspiracy against the Cuban Government.

The Costa Rican socialist leader criticized his country's policy on the alleged Cuban refugees who have been expatriated through the Peruvian Embassy.

STATION QUESTIONS TRUTH OF ASSASSINATION PLOT

PA180359 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We do not believe the announcement that there was a plot underway to kill the president of the republic. With due respect to the detectives, this report sounds like a fantasy. It does not agree with Costa Rican reality and idiosyncrasy. There is not a spectacular attack or bomb explosion in which the authorities have not involved the Turkish Ayub [referring to Alfonso Ayub, main suspect in the assassination plot] better known as "crazy Ayub". We imagine that the police have visited his shop in Marrio Mexico at least 30 times over the past 30 years.

It is possible for a foreigner to think of assassinating our president but it is hard to believe that a Costa Rican--regardless of his explosive personality, like that of Ayub--would think of assassinating the president.

The detectives once reported that there were hidden microphones at the presidential house and the news about that system of espionage remained a mystery just as this may remain.

However absurd the announcement may be, we must condemn any such terrorist attempt. We do not accept or tolerate violence and terrorism in Costa Rica. Certain persons were involved in placing bombs in the past and the massive arrival of many foreigners converts this country into a dangerous center of training for criminal actions. We take this opportunity to review the presence of certain foreigners who are posing as refugees when they are actually professional terrorists.

EL SALVADOR

MAJANO PROMISES PEASANTS BENEFITS FROM AGRARIAN REFORM

PA211250 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0139 GMT 21 Apr 80

[By Mauro Espinoza Fernandez]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano, member of the government junta of El Salvador, has said the peasants leasing land for cultivation will benefit in the future from plans for agrarian reform in the country. Speaking on Saturday at the graduation of 133 new agronomists from El Salvador's National School of Agriculture, the officer said the final objective of the agrarian reform plan is to "transfer ownership of the land to the men in the fields who work it directly."

Although he gave no dates and did not indicate whether the plans to which he referred have already been formulated, Majano made it clear that Salvadoran sharecroppers will benefit from the agrarian reform program initiated in this country on 6 March. "No one should own land if he is not able to work it," the junta member said in his speech.

The 22d class of the agricultural school included several students from Central American countries. Panamanians Mario Augusto Tunon, Juan Jose Sanchez and Alexis Herrera Gutierrez were among the graduates, as were Carlos Humberto Lopez of Guatemala and Mario Francisco Jimenez Gomes from Nicaragua. Majano asked the Central Americans to be "bearers of an affectionate greeting from the revolutionary junta to the youth of your respective countries and I urge you to use the knowledge you have acquired for the benefit of your peoples."

A total of 376 large estates will be expropriated by the Salvadoran Government in the first phase of the agrarian reform program. This represents over 220,000 hectares. It was initially estimated that some 300,000 Salvadorans will benefit from the agrarian program.

"Over the past 100 years, government action was always directed toward the benefit of a small sector, at the expense of the peasants, who constitute the majority of the population," the officer said. He said that "that unjust situation, which remained static and which has caused so much violence, so much poverty, so much terror and so much misery within the Salvadoran people has begun to change."

The officer described the agrarian reform program as an "opportunity available to us all to make our country a truly sovereign and independent nation, in which no one has to be exploited for the benefit of others."

Agrarian reform in El Salvador is being opposed in El Salvador by rightist and ultra-leftist sectors who believe the government's program is a serious obstacle to their retaining or achieving political power, as the case may be.

FOREIGN MINISTER STATES SUPPORT FOR PERU ON CUBAN CRISIS

PA211448 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 12 Apr 80 pp 2, 26

[Text] According to statements by the Salvadoran foreign minister, the Salvadoran revolutionary junta has expressed its support for Peru in the face of the situation at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana.

"El Salvador maintains its stand that the right to asylum must be respected because it is so established in international agreements and because it is a postulate of the Latin American international law," Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena said. He stressed that the stand of the Salvadoran Government agrees with that of other governments in the continent. However, "El Salvador cannot receive the Cuban refugees" because it is a small country and because of the situation we are experiencing.

He added that the solution to the problem is a matter that pertains to the Peruvian internal policy but said that he trusted everything will be satisfactorily solved for everyone.

What occurred at the Peruvian Embassy in Cuba is a unique case in times of peace. There have been cases of mass exile, but in times of war as it occurred in Nicaragua during the civil war.

Chavez Mena said that the government junta is drafting a document on the case of the Cuban refugees at the Peruvian Embassy in Cuba and the hostages at the Dominican Embassy in Colombia.

The right of asylum has always been respected by the people and governments of Latin America and the good judgment of the governments has prevailed even in extremely serious cases, he said.

FAPU DOCUMENT ANALYZES U.S. 'INTERVENTIONIST' POLICY

PA192320 San Salvador EL INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 19, 20 Apr 80 p 6

[Text] The FAPU [United Popular Action Front] denounces true U.S. interventionism. The heroic struggle that the Salvadoran people have been waging for such a long time to obtain their final liberation is gradually nearing its final outcome. The constitutions of the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses, of the Salvadoran Democratic Front and of the Revolutionary Democratic Front represent enormous popular victories in the path leading to the construction of a truly just and free society.

But the people know well that the sinister threat of the number one enemy of all peoples--U.S. imperialism, which is always ready to criminally intervene in our nations--always emerges along this path. FAPU feels it is necessary to present to the Salvadoran people some reflections about this constant Yankee interventionism. For this reason we will publish in successive editions Chapter No 1 of the pamphlet "El Salvador 1932-1980, Armed Forces and Counterrevolution," which our front will publish as the first publication of its PUEBLO edition.

The United States, an Aggressive and Interventionist Empire

There is no doubt that throughout the history of mankind, there has never been a nation like the United States which, while developing a great economic, political and military power that extends to a large part of the world, has carried out many plunderings and criminal interventions, particularly against the peoples of neighboring nations in Latin America which it has always contemptuously regarded as its backyard.

This vocation for economic and political pillage and blackmail constitutes a good reflection of the racist U.S. doctrine, which manifests itself even at the country's domestic level, its best known expression being the Ku Klux Klan. It is also a good reflection of a system of oppression and exploitation based on the excessive accumulation of wealth by powerful minorities. These minorities despoil with total impunity, large, starving and impoverished majorities which must suffer the consequences of an ambitious international policy, evincing a craving for world domination and advocating the use of force against the rights of other peoples in order to achieve and impose imperialist objectives.

Since this power (increasingly displayed in the wake of its political independence from England over 200 years ago, and especially after the end of World War I in 1918) greatly affects the degree of misery and "underdevelopment" of our countries, it is necessary that the progressive sectors within the armed forces and our people's highest-ranking sectors familiarize themselves with the black, belligerent and interventionist U.S. history. This familiarity is necessary if we are to fully understand the kind of enemy we must fight and defeat completely if we are to live freely, shake off the chains of oppression and exploitation and be able to decide our own destiny as a truly sovereign and independent country.

Relations Between Diplomatic Maneuvers and Acts of Military Aggression

It is also necessary to familiarize oneself with the doctrinary bases that "justify" the constant and repeated political and military acts of aggression carried out by the United States--be it the disembarking of and invasion by thousands of "civilized" Marines, joint military forces and puppet armies, or the turning of local armies into executioners of their own compatriots (who are characterized as internal enemies)--for the benefit and defense of its monopolies. These monopolies dedicate themselves to voraciously plundering our weak economies and increasingly impoverishing our large working masses.

In order to fully understand the close relationship between Yankee diplomatic maneuvers (disclosed through the statements of some of its highest-ranking official spokesmen--the president and secretary of state) and Yankee military maneuvers, it is necessary to disclose how the large multinational companies have been intent on placing certain official declarations on the routine level in order to try to conceal the most unjustifiable acts of barbarism. The examples abound: the Monroe Doctrine, the Roosevelt Doctrine, Truman, Eisenhower...all used by the United States to suit the big monopolies in their effort to destroy other countries and peoples (Korea, Laos, Vietnam) or "to enlarge [engrandecer] their own."

As the United States became a great world power, the importance of career soldiers "educated" at West Point and Annapolis increased and they directly penetrated high-level diplomatic and political circles. As a result of this, imperialist militarism has exerted a marked influence on all decisions connected with Yankee foreign policy.

This fact is neither an isolated instance nor a mere coincidence. Rather, it stems from a fundamental fact characteristic to military careers in the United States.

FDR LEADER FREED AFTER ARREST ON WEAPONS CHARGE

PA220354 Paris AFP in English 0224 GMT 22 Apr 80

[Text] San Salvador, April 22 (AFP)--The leader of the newly formed Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador, who had been reported kidnapped by "unknown persons" on Monday, was actually detained by police on a charge of carrying illegal [word indistinct], sources said.

The sources said that Enrique A. Cordoba, 49, named to lead the leftist-moderate [word indistinct] just 4 days ago was stopped at a police roadblock as he drove between Sansonate and the capital, about 60 kms (40 miles) away.

He was arrested for possession of prohibited arms, including a submachine gun and several sawed-off rifles.

Mr. Alvarez, a former agriculture minister, told police that the weapons belonged to three bodyguards traveling with him, the sources said. The police released the four men in San Salvador.

Earlier reports that Mr. Alvarez had been kidnapped were seemingly bolstered by a statement from Salvadorean Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia who said he was unaware that Mr. Alvarez might have been arrested.

LP-28 AMBUSHES BUS; ATTACKS MAYOR'S OFFICE

PA212217 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1308 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] The authorities report that a group of over 12 members of the 28 February Peoples Leagues [LP-28] ambushed a bus and later destroyed the windows of the mayor's office in Ciudad Delado with stones. They detonated incendiary bombs at the office, causing serious property damage.

The incident, which occurred yesterday afternoon, alarmed the residents of Ciudad Delgado. The individuals hung up one of their group's banners, asked for the mayor's address and then fled.

KIDNAPPED ALDERMAN FOUND DEAD IN NUEVA GUADALUPE

PA212218 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1248 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] Herman Jurado Recinos, 44, alderman of San Miguel municipality, has been found dead in Nueva Guadalupe.

Jurado Recinos had been kidnapped on Friday by several unidentified persons who forcibly took him from his home to an unknown destination. On Saturday, his body was found in Nueva Guadalupe. He had been killed by several bullets.

HOSPITAL STAFFS ENDANGERED BY ROVING ARMED BANDS

PA212219 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1251 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] Nurses, doctors and other hospital employees, particularly in San Salvador, Santa Ana and San Miguel, are endangered daily by armed individuals who enter the hospitals in search of their comrades, with the idea of either removing or killing them.

Our sources reported that on Friday, a group of armed individuals went to San Rafael hospital in Santa Tecla, purportedly to find a patient in order to take him away. In the shooting which followed, biologist Angel Erasmo Figueroa, a patient who had been admitted for bullet wounds, was killed. The incident caused alarm among the staff on duty.

JUDGE, WATCHMAN KILLED AS VIOLENCE CONTINUES

PA211238 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0340 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Apr (LATIN) A magistrate and a watchman died today in the course of terrorist actions and police announced that the bodies of eight persons shot to death had been found, as violence continues to rock El Salvador.

In the neighboring towns of Santa Tecla and Ciudad Delgado, the terrorists bombed the house of former (?police) Cmdr Roque Canales and the municipal presidency building. After confirming that the attacks had been repelled without any casualties, police described the damages caused in these two attacks as insignificant.

In Tecoluca, San Vicente Department, 40 km east, an unidentified group shot and killed Judge Jeronimo Lopez.

In Santa Ana, 70 km west, another command, which police have identified as belonging to the leftist Peoples Revolutionary Army, killed a watchman during an attack on a candy factory.

According to police, the bodies of six youths who had been shot to death were located this afternoon in San Miguel, 139 km east.

Two other bodies riddled with bullets, apparently those of two workers, were also found near San Martin, 21 km east, on the Pan-American Highway, police reported.

Meanwhile, former presidential candidate Col Ernesto Claramount Rozville denied the statements attributed to him that he had identified Msgr Arnulfo Romero's assassins. Claramount, who had to go into exile after losing the elections to Carlos Humberto Romero [words indistinct] that he has instructed his lawyers to sue the radio stations and newspapers that reported that. "At no time have I had to mention Monsignor Romero's case," commented Claramount, who on Friday participated in the creation of the opposition Revolutionary Democratic Front, a political party formed by the Salvadoran left to confront in an organized fashion the civi-military junta that has been ruling the country since 15 October 1979, when Romero was overthrown.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAYS ELECTIONS HELD HONESTLY

PA220446 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Apr 80

[Text] Carlos Toledo Vielman, presidential public relations secretary, expressed his satisfaction and that of the Guatemalan Government over the orderly and peaceful elections held Sunday in 360 municipalities.

The presidential spokesman said that the observers sent by the OAS traveled freely to all parts of the country to witness the normal development of the elections. They met with local political leaders and heard different viewpoints from local citizens with whom they spoke.

Toledo Vielman said that, as the government had promised, the elections were held with complete honesty. The citizens nominated by the different political parties, who were freely elected, will assume their municipal posts during the next administration.

EDITORIAL ASSESSES SIGNIFICANCE OF OIL EXPORTS

PA210059 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 80

[Commentary: "Guatemala, at Last an Oil Exporter!"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Sunday, Guatemala became an oil-exporting country. Its first shipment, 120,000 barrels, left for the United States. The shipment was sold for 3.5 million quetzales, but Guatemala will receive only 1.7 million quetzales, equivalent to 51 percent of the total.

The Guatemalan crude oil has been sold at 29.40 quetzales per barrel, a relatively low price if compared with the international price of this product. It has been almost a gift for the Americans, particularly if one considers that Mexico refuses to sell them any low-priced oil and that Iran is threatening to block all their supplies. But for a country that has never sold any oil, 1.7 million quetzales on its first sale undoubtedly represents a sum that will reinforce the state budget.

The government is very happy. Thanks to oil, its budget, which this year began with a slight deficit, will receive a long-awaited injection that will guarantee its implementation without problems. But the common citizen, the man who works, who expects everything from his work, surely views these exports indifferently. For him, they have no significance and they do not represent an immediate benefit. If ever they become significant, that day is still far into the future. Perhaps that will happen when the Mining Department opens the small refinery that is still only a project.

It is urgent that we process crude oil locally in order to supply the national market.

NO PLANS TO JOIN OPEC ARE BEING CONSIDERED

PA210100 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 80

[Text] Guatemala is not planning to join OPEC at this point. So far Guatemala has not considered joining OPEC, the mining, hydrocarbons and nuclear energy secretary has indicated.

Other needs, characteristic to an incipient oil-exporting activity, are currently being attended to while the possibility of exploiting this oil exists, Jorge Luis Monzon added.

According to the mining secretary, three tanks with a capacity of 55,000 barrels each have been constructed to deposit the oil exploited in the Rubelsanto and Chinaja wells. This oil is brought in through the oil pipeline and was exported yesterday for the first time.

NICARAGUAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES TO DISCUSS GRAINS

PA211247 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Embassy today announced the sudden arrival in Guatemala of Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Francisco Fiallos Navarro.

It was said that Fiallos is making an official visit during which he will discuss the terms of a grain sales program from Guatemala to his country.

Guatemala recently canceled its basic grain exports to Nicaragua, arguing that Guatemalan state agencies were profiteering by selling the product to Nicaragua at much higher prices than they charged on the local market.

There is a grain supply agreement among the five Central American countries.

DEMOCRATIC LEADER SAYS REPRESSION INTENSIFIED

PA211439 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] The army, the bourgeoisie and the Catholic Church are carrying out the worst repression in Guatemala's history, a high-ranking leader of the Guatemalan Democratic Organization [Agrupacion Democratica Guatemalteca] has charged in Mexico. Carlos Casares, a leader of that organization, said repression has been gradually intensified while U.S. imperialism has been increasing its support of the regime. He also charged that the Guatemalan press has said nothing about this repression. He added that the members of the military are the main landowners in his country. He blamed them for the 70,000 murders that have occurred in Guatemala since 1954.

He also charged that the Guatemalan regime grants visas and fixes the documents of many former Somozist guardsmen so they can combat the Sandinist revolution under the protection of their Guatemalan citizenship.

Meanwhile, a report issued in Mexico City by an international organization stated that political violence continues in Guatemala and that kidnappings, torture and murders are a daily occurrence. It also recalled the assassination of newsman Jose Leon Castaneda and the kidnapping of radio announcer Julio Cesar Hernandez. It added that there is fear for the life of Julia Esquivel, director of the magazine DIALOGO and active defender of human rights.

SIX KILLED IN VARIOUS TERRORIST ATTACKS 17 APR

PA181444 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0206 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Apr (LATIN)--Six persons were machinegunned to death today by unidentified persons in different terrorist activities in the nation. Meanwhile, the Peoples Guerrilla Army [EGP] has claimed responsibility for 30 casualties to government forces in five recent clashes in northwestern Quiche Department. According to a police report, during the past 24 hours of violence in Guatemala a soldier, political leader, policeman and three civilians were shot.

In a communique the EGP sent to LATIN, it was reported that the five clashes occurred between 25 March and 5 April near the Mexican border in the area of El Quiche. The communique states that the guerrillas sustained only one casualty.

Army Capt William Ernesto Garica was machinegunned to death this morning by several unidentified persons on a side street to the east of the capital.

The secretary general of the National Liberation Movement Party in Zacapa, 145 km to the northwest, was also gunned down by unidentified persons, while in Esquintla, 60 km to the south, a policeman and a civilian died after having been machinegunned.

In the heavily populated Colina Primero de Julio district in this capital, an unidentified man was killed by six men who fired machineguns after having pursued him through several streets.

Lastly, at Kilometer 84 on the road to the Santa Rosa Oratory toward the east, Alberto Roca was ambushed while traveling in one of his vehicles by unidentified persons who also used machine guns in the attack.

Violence, apparently for political reasons, seemingly increased as the nation approached the election of 280 mayors for secondary municipalities.

HONDURAS

ELECTION RESULTS CONFIRM LIBERAL VICTORY

FM220124 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0024 GMT 22 Apr 80

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--A Liberal Party victory has been assured with only the results of 19 municipalities not counted in yesterday's elections for a constituent assembly in Honduras.

A total of 1,233,756 voters participated in the elections for the traditional Liberal and National parties and the emerging Innovation and Unity Party.

The unofficial results were obtained at the National Elections Tribunal. These results were broadcast in detail by a network of radio and television stations over a period of 42 hours and now only have to be confirmed by the official records of the 282 municipalities where 4,208 polling places operated.

In the 263 municipalities which have been counted, the Liberal Party has obtained 458,889 votes, the National Party 406,074 votes and the Innovation and Unity Party 31,842. The difference between Liberals and Nationalists has been an unexpected 52,667 [figure as received] and the results of traditionally liberal-voting municipalities are the only ones now missing.

For the Innovation and Unity Party it is also a victory because it would have ceased to exist unless it obtained 10,000 votes, which is the same number of signatures required for it to become a party. However, this party has tripled this vote and could obtain 33,000 votes, which would give it an official representation of three deputies. The Liberal Party will have 39 or 40 deputies. Although the National Party said this afternoon through Ricardo Zuniga Agustinus, its coordinator, that it will challenge the elections in several municipalities in which he believes it has won, he did concede defeat.

Distressed by the weight of the defeat, Zuniga Agustinus held a news conference in which he did not blame any Nationalist for the defeat and offered his party as the "alternative." He denied accusations of having been in collusion with the army and said that the party will make a constructive opposition while being part of the democratic experience which the people have voted for.

The Liberal Party organized what it called "the victory caravan" and in an impressive parade of buses and private cars decorated with the red and white flags of the party moved through the streets of Tegucigalpa. Similar activities were held in other cities and towns after being warned by the leaders not to provoke the opposition, which had issued similar orders.

Two important characteristics distinguished the "victory caravan:" It stopped at the cemetery and at a basilica. At the cemetery, immediately in front of the basilica, the Liberal leaders offered their party's overwhelming victory to their last big leader, Modesto Rodas Alvarado. There were tears and a few fiery speeches which almost drowned out the emotion and recognition for the man who did not attain victory during his lifetime. At the same cemetery the Liberal Party paid homage to the last of the country's Liberal presidents, Ramon Villeda Morales--a great ideologist and leader of the party, according to the speakers.

At the basilica the Liberals thanked the Virgin Mary of Suyapa, "patron" of Honduras, for having accompanied them in victory. The Liberals have offered a program that is "socially, economically and culturally revolutionary" for the Honduran people. The Liberals believe the "militant attitude of the Honduran youth gave the party its victory."

COLUMNIST REJECTS STATEMENTS BY U.S. OFFICIAL

PA192117 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Apr 80 p 7

["Atalaya Politica" column by Ramon Custodio Lopez: "Interests or Security?"]

[Text] According to Catherine the Great, politics are defined by these three words: circumstances, conjecture and moment. The Honduran version would be that politics is the art of obtaining bones [huesos] and influence, by exploiting the moment and this would complete the political skeleton of a society which does not wish to recognize the value of its muscles.

James Cheek, State Department assistant secretary of state for Central American affairs [as received], has personally brought us a message from the U.S. Government. The message uses the ambiguity of diplomatic language when it claims that the United States is ignorant of electoral fraud here. It could be taken to mean that nothing is known about the fraud or that there is knowledge of it but that no importance has been attributed to it because the security or interests of the United States are not threatened. It is as if he said that the only important thing about Honduran democracy is its repercussion on the security and interests of his country. The 20 April elections are planned to sell the idea that our government will come from among the people and will be pluralist, in order to justify its defense at any price.

In another part of his statements, Mr Cheek says that he "understands that there are no Somozas in Honduras." No notice was taken of the fact that Somoza's origin as a committer of genocide and owner of the lives and estates and riches of Nicaragua was his unlimited power. With the concept understood in this way, what limits are there to the power of the chiefs of the regional development juntas established in the country by advice of the Agency for International Development (AID)?

Mr Cheek came to persuade us that military assistance to the Honduran Army is not intervention in the affairs of the Honduran state and that it certainly does not promote an arms buildup, because of the $50 million for the Honduran Government, only $3.5 million are for military transportation and communication. There is already talk of RENTING 10 helicopters to fly over the Salvadoran border, thereby promoting the principle of the self-determination of peoples. We ask whether the OAS PERMANENT MISSION has already stopped functioning or is inadequate for its mission of guarding that border. We understand that its services ARE NOT FREE.

Who will pay for the fuel consumed in these patrols, making the profits of the refineries even juicier? Are we not already sufficiently dependent on the whims of TEXACO and its manager-presidents?

The history written by Hondurans is not self-critical and almost always whitewashed truths that are damaging to our dignity, such as the fact that our national economy's link with, or rather dependence on, that of the United States dates from the last third of the 19th century, with the concession granted to the Rosario Mining Company.

While it is true that the decision-making power of the banana companies is not so apparent in the present century, it also becomes clearer every day that instead of a participatory democracy, we have a political system which experts on Latin American dictatorships define as a SEMIPARLIAMENTARY AUTHORTARIAN GOVERNMENT or as BUREAUCRATIC AUTHORITARIANISM.

In his meetings, Mr Cheek probably did not recognize a picturesque personage from our little social world, either a soldier or a politician, called "Malgarito, the guardian." The phrase that is most characteristic of his status of total loyalty is "AT YOUR SERVICE, BOSS.

"Malgarito," like all smart men, has prospered greatly and his species has multiplied. There are so many "Malgaritos" that they now even have portfolios, head ministries and write editorials, and are businessmen, industrialists, and so forth. But above all, they pride themselves on continuing to be guardians... of borders [fronteras] and the interests of the boss.

Those persons, Mr Cheek, even when they have Honduran identity cards, are not the best examples of our citizenry.

Dignified Hondurans question the orders of any boss, as long as they violate our right to self-determination.

NICARAGUA

ROBELO CALLEJAS REPORTEDLY RESIGNS FROM JUNTA

PA221359 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1354 GMT 22 Apr 80

[Text] Managua, 22 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Alfonso Robelo Callejas has resigned as member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, private sector sources have reported. The report, although not officially confirmed yet, has already been announced by the Managua Radio stations.

DECREE ON COMPOSITION OF STATE COUNCIL RELEASED

PA212203 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] Article 16 of Chapter 13 of the Fundamental National Statute on the makeup of the State Council was amended on 16 April with the signatures of the then five government junta members. During a news conference this morning, Companeros Sergio Ramirez and Moises Hassan, members of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, disclosed the full makeup of the council. As is public knowledge, the council will hold its first session on 4 May, the day of national dignity. Here is a list of the organizations which as of now will be on the council:

The State Council will be comprised of 47 members appointed by the following political, popular, trade union and social organizations and associations:

Political organizations--the Patriotic Front [no figure heard]; the Sandinist National Liberation Front, six members; Independent Liberal Party, one member; Nicaraguan Socialist Party, one member; Peoples Social Christian Party, one member; Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, one member;

Other organizations: The Democratic Conservative Party, one member; Social Christian Party, one member;

Peoples organizations--Sandinist defense committees, a total of nine members from the following national areas: Managua, two members and Leon and Chinandega, one member; Mataglpa and Jinotega, one member; Esteli, Nueva Segovia and Madriz, one member; Chontales, Boago and Rio San Juan, one member; Zelaya, one member;Masaya and Carazo, one member; Granada and Rivas, one member; also the 19 July Sandinist Youth, one member; Luisa Amanda Espinoza Nicaraguan Women's Association, one member;

Trade union organizations: Sandinist Workers Central, three members; Farmworkers Association, three members; General Labor Confederation, one member; Nicaraguan Workers Central, one member; Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions, one member; Central of Labor Action and Unity, one member; Federation of Health Workers, one member;

Associations and social organizations--armed forces, one member; National Clergy Association, one member; National Council of Higher Education, one member; National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers, one member; Union of Journalists of Nicaragua, one member; Misurasata, one member; National Confederation of Professional Associations, one member;

Private enterprise organizations--Nicaraguan Development Institute, one member; Nicaraguan Chamber of Industries, one member; Confederation of Chambers of Commerce, one member; Chamber of Construction, one member; Union of Agricultural Producers, one member.

This decree will go into effect on the date it is published in the official gazette. Issued in Managua on 16 April 1980, the year of the literacy campaign.

[Signed] Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction: Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Alfonso Robelo Callejas, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Moises Hassan Morales, Violeta B. de Chamorro.

CHAMORRO INTERVIEWED ON DISMISSAL FROM LA PRENSA

PA211640 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Telephone interview with Xavier Chamorro on his dismissal as director of the newspaper LA PRENSA--presumably live]

[Text] [Question] We have called Xavier Chamorro, who has been dismissed as director of LA PRENSA. He has received the support of the newspaper's workers who are on a temporary strike to express this support. Chamorro, what is your view of the problem in LA PRENSA?

[Answer] The problem is difficult. However, I believe there are many possibilities of finding a solution. I have tried many times to find a formula through which all of us at LA PRENSA can [words indistinct] and conciliation so we can work within the revolutionary process and continue forward [words indistinct]. I hope the problem will be solved [words indistinct].

[Question] Why do you think the Board of Directors fired you as director of the newspaper?

[Answer] As you know, not everyone thinks the same way. However, I think there is still time to find a solution. I do not know the exact reasons for my dismissal. However, there might be some (?differences of views) between myself and some members of the Board of Directors. That is about all I can say.

[Question] What is your view of the list of demands presented by the newspaper's workers?

[Answer] The demands presented by the union of the newspaper's workers are [passage indistinct]. They also want a voice in the editorial council. [passage indistinct]

UNION OF LA PRENSA WORKERS ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

PA211616 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] The director of the newspaper LA PRENSA has been dismissed. The newspaper workers have gone on a temporary strike and have issued a call for solidarity. The newspaper was not published today.

At noon yesterday the LA PRENSA workers decided to go on a temporary strike when they learned about the dismissal of Director Xavier Chamorro who has supported the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. The strike is in solidarity with Xavier Chamorro brother of the assassinated LA PRENSA director, Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, martyr of freedom. The workers have explained that they have not seized the newspaper installations and that the members of the paper's Board of Directors can go to the installations whenever they so desire. The union of LA PRENSA Workers has issued the following communique explaining its position:

The Union of LA PRENSA Workers, whereas:

Xavier Chamorro Cardenal, the newspaper director and co-owner, has been dismissed from his post as the last chapter in a series of pressures, threats and even insults against him by members of the newspaper's Board of Directors during the past months:

As our well-remembered martyred Director Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal was in the past, Xavier Chamorro is now the main bulwark of our newspaper in technical, intellectual and moral aspects;

Xavier Chamorro was an essential pillar in rebuilding LA PRENSA after the 1972 earthquake. With courage, dignity and a combative spirit, he picked up the banner of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro after he was vilely assassinated. He struggled with tenacity and determination to rebuild the newspaper after the savage destruction of the genocidal regime. Since the revolutionary triumph, he has faced the challenge of history, promoting a healthy climate of understanding and mutual aid with the workers of the newspaper;

Upstart individuals in the newspaper--some of whom have failed in their private businesses and their political double-dealings and others who are resentful because they have been excluded from a revolutionary process that does not tolerate those who never wrote anything against Somoza and who are not violently attacking the revolutionary process--are not trying to fire our director without any sense of decency or respect so they can turn LA PRENSA into the spokesman of minority, privileged and antipopular sectors;

The laws of our revolutionary state establish that due to their great social responsibility, the social communications media cannot be at the service of the aforementioned interests. The surrender of LA PRENSA to those sectors would mean its corruption and discredit among our people;

The concepts and laws which regulate private enterprise are not applicable to the social communications media because they have a specific social function and a responsibility to transit, comment and guide [orientar] the news that reaches our people.

It is evident that in view of the list of demands submitted by the Union of LA PRENSA Workers, there is an attempt to prevent the participation of Xavier Chamorro in the discussions of the demands and thus prevent a conciliatory, respectful, humanistic and revolutionary voice from counteracting those who still believe they can handle their interests in the style of the past and with the power that the protection of an exploitive government used to give them.

In view of these considerations, the union has decided:

To give all its support and solidarity to Xavier Chamorro as director of LA PRENSA;

To emphatically state that neither as a union nor individually does any member of the Union of LA PRENSA Workers seek to take over or change the basic legal structure of the LA PRENSA enterprise, except for the limitations that our laws have established and which we consider just and necessary. Those laws prohibit actions which can turn the enterprise, as a communications media, into an instrument of slander and conspiracy against our revolutionary process.

To clearly state that despite the number of difficulties and adjustments that the deepening of the revolutionary victory involves, we support the [word indistinct], pluralistic and revolutionary position that the newspaper has been maintaining and which is basically the result of the leadership of Xavier Chamorro Cardenal.

Therefore, the Union of LA PRENSA Workers agrees to:

1. Declare a temporary strike of the newspaper's activities and to hold a general assembly at 0900 on 21 April to make the appropriate decisions.

2. Maintain the officers of the union in permanent consultation.

3. Recommend great calm and serenity among its members and to look after the property of the enterprise in the hope that dialogue and fraternity will bring back normal conditions among the LA PRENSA family as soon as possible.

20 April 1980. Board of Directors of the Union of LA PRENSA Workers.

Deadline for Chamorro's Reinstatement

PA212226 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] During a general assembly this morning, the workers of the newspaper LA PRENSA decided to give the newspaper's Board of Directors 24 hours to reinstate Xavier Chamorro as director. Xavier Chamorro was dismissed at the end of last week. The deadline ends tomorrow at 1000.

Trinidad Vasquez, president of the Union of LA PRENSA Workers, said that if Xavier Chamorro is reinstated in his post without a reduction of his authority, the workers would return to work tomorrow and the newspaper would once again be circulating on Wednesday morning.

The workers' assembly was held outside under a big tree. Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy visited the newspaper installations when he learned about the workers' strike. Minister Godoy spoke with the two parties in conflict and said that a dialogue to solve the problem might begin.

The LA PRENSA Board of Directors has not yet expressed its official position. However, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, one of its members, has said that they do not want his uncle, Xavier Chamorro, to continue as director because he is in favor of the revolutionary process. Young Pedro Chamorro Barrios' position against the process is well known.

Xavier Chamorro arrived at the newspaper's installation at around 1000 and he was received with loud applause by the workers. "Xavier yes, another no!" were the shouts of the workers who ended up carrying him on their shoulders to express their support. The LA PRENSA workers clearly stated that they will not permit the dismissal of Xavier Chamorro, the brother of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro who was killed by men hired by Somozists.

MILITARY DEPLOYED TO ENSURE SAFETY OF TEACHERS

PA192322 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Apr 80 p 6

[From "Notas Cortas Departamentales" column]

[Text] Ocotal--There has been a large-scale military deployment in Madriz and Nueva Segovia departments to preserve order in the event of any attack along the border with Honduras.

Our Sandinist people's army, the people's vanguard, is always ready to battle with the enemies of the revolution.

Soldiers have posted themselves at strategic points in the mountains in Nueva Segovia. Their revolutionary morale is very high. They are firm and sure of themselves, and fully guarantee the march of those who are fighting ignorance.

The people of Nueva Segovia can be sure that the enemies of the revolution can do nothing to prevent our brother peasants from emerging from the state of illiteracy inherited from Somoza, because the Government of National Reconstruction and the Sandinist Front will guarantee the safety of our soldiers of culture.

LABOR LEADER SAYS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RECOVERING

PA191542 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Excerpt] The construction industry is recovering. The number of workers contracted by this industry has increased from 2,000 to 6,000, Radio Sandino was told by Alejandro Solorzano, president of the Union of Carpenters, Masons and Joiners.

SMUGGLING OPERATIONS CONTINUALLY DETECTED AT BORDERS

PA191800 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Smuggling operations worth millions of cordobas continue to be detected at the various customs posts. Large quantities of gold, worth almost 2 million cordobas, also continue to be smuggled through the southern border.

'NO OBJECTIONS' TO SHIPS ARRIVING FOR REFUGEES

PA220356 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 80

[Text] GRANMA comments in an editorial that two ships have arrived at Mariel Port, some 50 km west of Havana, to pick up the antisocials who have received authorization to leave the country.

Two other ships are expected to arrive from Florida. Cuba, the newspaper says, has no objections to receiving these ships and will not keep them from taking away the citizens they have come to pick up.

GOVERNMENT QUESTIONS COSTA RICA'S ROLE IN EVACUATION

FL181109 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Text] A total of 309 antisocials departed yesterday. Spain was "lucky" to get 54 of them. The rest left for Costa Rica. A grand total of 554 have already left. All of them had accepted the permanent permit which allowed them to leave the embassy and remain at their residences.

But, it appears that matters once more get hopelessly tangled. We have explained to the Costa Rican Government that the program of evacuation has to be discussed with Cuba, but none of that country's officials has had the courtesy to do so. Let it [Costa Rica] explain the reason for setting up a distribution center. Whose idea was that? What is that center good for? It does not make sense to take those persons out of their homes in Cuba, where they are presently residing with safe-conducts, passports and exit permits, to any country and transport them to a camp in Costa Rica. In our judgment there is no need for a distribution center anywhere.

The Cuban revolutionary government is willing to allow the departure of those individuals abroad direct flights to any country willing to receive them, as is being done now with Spain and as was done with Costa Rica when it requested [permission] for the first 300. It is now known with certainty what the imperialists are up to in their contacts with the Costa Rican Government. Perhaps, the objective is purely demagogic and propagandistic. To travel to the United States there is no need to make a stop in Costa Rica. It costs less and it is quicker to travel directly to Key West, some 90 miles away. Everything else makes no sense.

URUGUAYAN EXILE CRITICIZES PERU'S ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES

PA191729 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Apr 80

[Text] The Cuban newspaper JUVENTUD REBELDE has published statements by Uruguayan exile Estela Serruti, who recalled that during 1975 and 1976 when thousands of progressives were persecuted by the Montevideo regime, the Peruvian Embassy in Uruguay systematically refused to grant political asylum to many revolutionaries. The Peruvian diplomats in Montevideo did not only deny asylum to hundreds of revolutionaries at a time when their lives were in danger, but they also threatened to call the Uruguayan forces, which meant a sure death.

Uruguayan exile Estela Serruti, who teaches at the Ramon Gonzalez Coro maternity-infant hospital in Havana, said that despite this action in the past, the Peruvian Embassy is now accepting antisocials, fugitives and people of doubtful morality and is trying to present them as people who are being persecuted.

U.S. TREATMENT OF CUBANS, HAITIANS COMPARED

PA192123 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Text] GRANMA, the official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, today contrasts the U.S. Government's treatment of the individuals who entered the Peruvian Embassy in Havana with that extended to Haitian refugees who go to the U.S.

The Cuban newspaper comments on a letter sent to President James Carter by the Black Caucus of the U.S. Congress, which states that the president's decision to accept some of those who entered the Peruvian mission is different from his position regarding the Haitians.

In recent days, some 1,000 Haitians have fled from their country in fragile boats and headed for the Florida coast. They, GRANMA adds, have been received as undesirables. Work is denied them and many are returned to their country. This, GRANMA says, is in contrast to the initial reception which, for propaganda purposes, is being given to those who betray Cuba. These last are being received as victims of communism and are being offered a microphone and the pages of newspapers and magazines to slander Cuba.

PERUVIAN DIPLOMATS ASK FOR PROTECTION ON 19 APR

PA190226 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0037 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Havana, 18 Apr (EFE)--The Peruvian diplomatic mission in Cuba will be given protection tomorrow, according to what Peruvian Charge d'Affaires Mr Armando Lecaros has told EFE. He also reported that he met this morning with Cuban Foreign Ministry officials to discuss the overall situation. Mr Lecaros said that the Lima government has asked the Cuban authorities to provide adequate protection tomorrow since over 1 million people are going to parade in front of the diplomatic office.

U.S. Diplomats Get Protection

PA190228 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0113 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Text] Havana, 18 Apr (EFE)--The homes of the U.S. diplomats accredited here will be given police protection tomorrow.

As sources close to the U.S. Interests Section told EFE, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca personally apprised Section Chief Wayne S. Smith of the government's decision. Smith was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon where he met with the Cuban foreign minister. U.S. sources labeled the interview a "nice gesture" on the part of the Cuban authorities. Protection had been requested in a note sent by the U.S. diplomatic mission to the Havana government today.

CASTRO CONGRATULATES GUARDS AT 19 APR MARCH

FL211115 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Rafael Berastegui report]

[Text] Brig Gen Ulises Rosales, commander of the Western Army, conveyed congratulations from the Revolutionary Armed Forces and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party Central Committee, to the comrades in the militia group that watched over the safety of the Militant People's march [in Havana on 19 April].

On Friday, when he talked with the group at the Pedro Marrero Stadium in Havana, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro pointed out that the prestige of its members was the best guarantee of the success of the mission assigned them.

In the course of the Militant People's March, the greetings of the masses to the group and the organization and discipline displayed by our people during the march confirmed thoroughly the impression of Comrade Fidel.

This reporter, who had the honor of being assigned to the group, witnessed the high revolutionary and human quality of the comrades responsible for the safety of the Militant People's March. Workers, peasants, professionals and students, reserve officers and internationalist soldiers were in the group formed by the FAR General Staff. The group fulfilled its assigned task with the maximum enthusiasm and responsibility.

Following the congratulations conveyed by Brig Gen Ulises Rosales, commander of the Western Army, at the conclusion of the historic Militant People's March, the group responded by chanting: "Fidel, Fidel, tell us what else we have to do to share in the high revolutionary readiness which characterizes our people."

GRANMA HAILS 19 APR 'MARCH OF MILITANT PEOPLE'

FL211537 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1403 GMT 21 Apr 80

[Text] The 19th anniversary of the Giron [invasion] was a new Giron, a moral and political Giron inflicted on imperialism against its corrupt and decaying ideology, against its military threats, against the provocations of its lackeys, against the only social allies it has in Cuba--the lumpens, misfits, sociopaths, lazy, parasites, the ones who do not adapt to the discipline and morality of our society, the ones who are incapable of living honestly of their own labor and effort, points out the newspaper GRANMA in an editorial today.

It adds: The march of the militant people [on 19 April] will go into the history of our country as one of the most impressive, militant, profound and definitive popular events of our revolution.

Like an army on the offensive, one after another of the contingents of each of the 15 municipalities of our capital and massive groups of Havana Province arrived on Fifth Avenue in an uninterrupted flow and in closed ranks. The GRANMA editorial emphasizes that each group more than exceeded early estimates of possible participants. When 10 de Octubre municipality had gathered 100,000 people at its staging area as planned, tens of thousands still were waiting at mobilization points. Habana del Este expected 20,000 and almost 40,000 participated. The same happened with the others.

A real organizational feat and capability for action of our revolution were necessary to respond to each of the unforeseen circumstances as they came up. The march advanced at a faster rate than estimated, reaching at certain times a flow of more than 100,000 citizens per hour. The municipalities that had to march in the afternoon and night had to advance their mobilization and concentration programs by 2 hours or more. The number of persons to be transported by any means, including walking, was much greater toward the assembly and evacuation areas and the available time was less. People are capable of making such miracles only in times of war.

With unselfish and untiring work over unending hours, the transportation workers also wrote a brilliant and unforgettable page of organization, discipline and efficiency, notes GRANMA's editorial today. It adds: The streets of Havana were empty.

Even the capitalist news agencies admit that more than 1 million marched on Fifth Avenue. What we know is that approximately 1.5 million citizens participated directly or indirectly in Saturday's historic revolutionary day.

Today's GRANMA editorial, entitled "Yankee Imperialism Must be Shown What Cuba Is," emphasizes that along with those who marched in front of the Peruvian Embassy, we must add those who could not do it because they were assigned by the committees for the Defense of the Revolution the mission of guarding the homes of residents during the demonstration, the ones who took care of essential production and services enters of the capital, the tens of thousands who participated in transportation activities, the health care of the people and services to the demonstrators, military guard units, custody of the embassy and so forth.

Despite the fact that the situation could have become truly explosive because of the people's justifiable indignation or an eventual provocation against the people, not a single rifle, not a single bullet was present around the Peruvian Embassy on Saturday. Five militia battalions composed of 1,400 internationalist combatant workers received the task of guarding the diplomatic mission without weapons. On a permanent basis, two of these battalions forming a direct line from the corner of 72d street and Fifth Avenue, with their backs to the embassy and facing the people, guarded the side and front of the diplomatic mission and the men were rotated every so often.

The police personnel who were guarding the Venezuelan Embassy two blocks away did so also without bullets in their service pistols and without magazines in their rifles. These were the traditional guards. Our working and heroic people were going to march and before them there could not be a single weapon or a single bullet. However, we knew that the Peruvian Embassy's safety was absolutely guaranteed; first of all, because of the level of political awareness and discipline of our people who received precise instructions from their organizations to prevent any act of violence in front of the embassy; second, because of the respect, admiration and affection which our people feel toward their heroic internationalist combatants.

Therefore, the embassy was protected by a symbol. That, and not force, was what those ranks of militiamen meant to a sea of people that were justifiably angry. These combatants were not guarding the Peruvian diplomatic mission or the scum staying there; they were guarding the honor of Cuba, asserts GRANMA in its editorial today. The Peruvian Embassy was not assaulted by force as some abroad expected. There was not a single person injured; there were no deaths. Something more, there was not a single accident during the gigantic mobilization, concentration, march and evacuation of more than 1 million persons.

Our television, radio and press media did excellent work reporting to the rest of the country the real image of the historic event that was taking place. Throughout the day and first hours of the night, television screens showed live the march which lasted exactly 13 hours and 17 minutes and which concluded a short while after national television resumed regular programs.

On 19 April, the enemy received an unforgettable lesson of what our people are and think by their massive presence, solid unity, indestructible force, high political consciousness, and their expressive placards and slogans which were created by none other than the people themselves, states the editorial published today in the third edition of GRANMA, official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee.

We are unconcerned about whether or not the bourgeois press abroad reflects what happened here Saturday. It flooded the world with lies during Giron 19 years ago but that did not prevent the crushing of the mercenaries in less than 72 hours. That was how it was and always will be.

Our own history, our historic resistance over more than 21 years, our honorable revolutionary role, our exemplary internationalist conduct and our truth are increasingly accepted in the hearts and minds of the exploited and oppressed of this hemisphere and of the world and of the revolutionary and progressive forces of all mankind, asserts GRANMA, official organ of the party Central Committee, in its editorial published in the third edition entitled "Yankee Imperialism Must be Shown What Cuba Is."

Only about 1,500 antisocial persons remain in the Peruvian Embassy. Peruvian officials themselves cannot or do not want to give the exact number. None of them will leave this country until the last of the ones who returned home accepting the guarantees and documents of the revolutionary government leaves. And, of course, the issue of those who enter embassies by force must be resolved. Meanwhile, the guard at the Peruvian Embassy is only provisional. Now we expect that everyone understands without the slightest doubt that Cuba will not tolerate blackmail of any sort, absolutely from no one.

There have been reports from Florida [United States] of the arrival, on their own, of some vessels to pick up the antisocial persons who received authorization to leave. Two already arrived in the port of Mariel. Of course, we are not going to receive them with cannons because they do not come for war and we do not object to their taking them.

Our militant people again will show their strength on 1 May in a gigantic rally, this time fundamentally aimed against the Yankee military maneuvers around Cuba, maneuvers which are a gross rehearsal of how to invade our homeland. The mighty and hardened forces of all municipalities of the capital and Havana Province which marched in front of the Peruvian Embassy on 19 April will gather in Revolution Square on the glorious International Workers Day continuing their battle in defense of dignity, sovereignty and integrity of our homeland.

And on the same day when the Yankee Marines and soldiers will be conducting their provocative and shameless landings on the Guantanamo Naval Base, the foundations of the Malecon [waterfront boulevard] will shake in front of the building of the US Interests Office under the step of our militant people. However, this time we will be accompanied by the compatriots from throughout the island with the organization of marches in all the country's cities with the participation of millions of people, continues the GRANMA editorial. We will mobilize our friends from throughout the world to support us in this struggle. The Yankee imperialists must be shown what Cuba is, what our revolutionary people are and the type of resistance they are going to find if, for any reason and any pretext, some day they try to place their bloody claws on our homeland.

MALMIERCA MET WITH GROMYKO BEFORE 6 APR TRIP TO KABUL

PA191305 Paris AFP in Spanish 1117 GMT 19 Apr 80

[Text] Havana, 19 Apr (AFP)--The Cuban Foreign Ministry disclosed here yesterday that Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko in the Soviet Union before his trip to Kabul on 6 April in the framework of a search for a political solution to the Afghan issue.

During Malmierca's meetings with Gromyko and Afghan President Babrak Karmal, there was a broad exchange of viewpoints, almost always unanimously in agreement on the need to continue efforts to find a political solution to the conflict, the document added. Malmierca has returned to Cuba after his 15-day trip.